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OF

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OF

LAURENCEKIRK

BY

WILLIAM RUXTON FRASER, M.A.

MINISTER OF MARYTON

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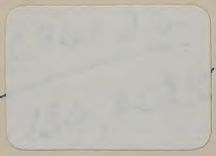

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TO

PATRICK DICKSON, Esq.

OF BARNHILL,

WHO SUGGESTED THE WORK,

AND LARGELY AIDED IN ITS PRODUCTION,

THIS HISTORY OF THEIR NATIVE PARISH AND BURGH,

IN HEART-FELT APPRECIATION OF

A LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIP,

IS DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

134.40

THE writing of this 'History of the Parish and Burgh of Laurencekirk' was first suggested to the mind of a friend by a short historical account of the Parish of Maryton, which had recently been printed. The suggestion, when conveyed to the writer, was not acted upon without hesitation. The diversity of interests to be dealt with was so great, entailing a corresponding amount of research, that the task appeared a somewhat formidable one. On the other hand, the suggestion was felt to be due to a kindly interest in the parish, and it touched a chord of sympathy which responded to the feeling. The research which had been needed for the *brochure* on Maryton gave some measure of preparation for the work, one or two of the leading families having in days of old been represented in both parishes. There was encouragement, also, in the hope of receiving assistance from quarters in which the necessary information had to be sought,—a hope which experience has more than justified.

Under the influence of these considerations, the work was undertaken, and the issue is offered to the reader, with a claim for indulgence if it be found imperfect and unsatisfactory. Incomplete it must be, and inaccurate to some extent it may be. The difficulty of obtaining information of any kind, and especially reliable information on a series of events extending over centuries, renders completeness in such a subject impossible, and inaccuracy very probable. No credit is assumed for more than that care has been taken to make the History as full and correct as the available sources of information would permit.

The benefits accruing from such a work are greater than on first thoughts may be conceived. On the lowest ground, it is a reasonable curiosity which desires acquaintance with the past history of the parish or neighbourhood to which nativity or residence attaches importance. But, if fairly executed, these local expositions contribute to accuracy in that wider field of history, a knowledge of which is universally regarded as one of the elements of intellectual culture.

Scattered over the pages of such works as those of Balfour, Douglas, Chambers, and Jervise, are particles of information in regard to particular localities, which, gathered together, combine to throw no little light upon their respective histories. In the mass, those works may with some reason be pronounced dry and uninteresting; but, if utilised as quarries of informa-

tion, facts may be dug out to build a little fabric to interest and instruct the readers of the community to whose history they belong. The truth of this statement will appear more and more as these parish records are multiplied. The one will help to elucidate the other; and, when several neighbouring parishes have had this attention bestowed upon them, the result will be a knowledge of the district which cannot fail to be at once interesting and profitable.

In preparing the 'History of Laurencekirk,' it has been found that ample sources of information exist for a similar treatise on all the surrounding parishes. There are few parishes in Scotland with such an abundance of interesting matter available as Fordoun possesses. Marykirk is rich in material for a parish history, and so in smaller measure is Garvock. It is to be hoped that some one, native or resident in these respective parishes, will be encouraged to make the necessary research, and give the result of his labour to the community in which he is interested, and to the public at large.

No apology is offered for supplementing the strictly historical narrative with a short account of families and individuals connected with the parish. Nothing, it is hoped, will be found in those brief sketches calculated to offend surviving representatives in the parish or elsewhere; and care has been taken to verify the statements which have been made.

Many of the anecdotes which appear in the closing

chapter, or are interspersed in the narrative, may appear uninteresting to the general reader. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the work has been prepared, not for the general reader, but mainly for natives of Laurencekirk, and others specially interested in the parish. For their sakes chiefly, it has been thought well to give permanent form to the quaint sayings and humorous anecdotes which have been floating about for more than half a century. The quaintness and humour may not be apparent altogether to those who can judge of them only apart from a knowledge of the persons or circumstances to which they refer. But a hope is entertained that some, from early association or cherished tradition, will have pleasure in the perusal sufficient to justify their insertion.

Whatever diversity there may be among natives of Laurencekirk in other respects, they are all alike in cherishing a strongly sympathetic feeling in all that concerns the past and present of their native parish. The main purpose of the volume is to minister to this essential element of a truly patriotic spirit; and the labour expended on it will be doubly rewarded if, from time to time, a stray copy find its way to some foreign land, and help the reader to recall the vision of his early "village home."

Among the many who have contributed their own reminiscences and other information, only a few can be expressly mentioned, though all are gratefully remembered. More than one of the chapters are

indebted to Mr James Cowie, whose acquaintance with the history of the parish for the last century and a half is probably unsurpassed. Part of the information connected with the burgh was supplied by Mr John Kinnear, the late Mr Alexander Robertson, Mr William Main, Mr David Glass, and Mr James Forbes, who has been unsparing in his friendly aid.

Mr James Scott Hampton, S.S.C., has shown his kindly interest in the parish and burgh of which he is a native by his readiness in procuring extracts from the public registers, which would otherwise have been inaccessible. Old documents of considerable interest have been furnished by Mr Robert Crabb; and useful information has been supplied by Mr William Alexander, Bent.

Access at will has been given to all available writs in possession of the heritors of the parish; and thanks are specially due to Mr Alexander Edmond—commissioner for the Earl of Kintore—Mr Pearson of Johnston Lodge, and Dr Johnston of Kair, for the interest which they have manifested, and the trouble which they have taken whenever applied to.

The courtesy of Bailie Rae and Mr Craig, burgh-clerk, is also to be acknowledged in responding to repeated applications for liberty to consult the burgh records.

A like acknowledgment is due to the Rev. Mr Morrison and Mr Keppie, for frequent opportunities

of consulting the records of the kirk-session; and to the Rev. John Brown, clerk of the Presbytery of Fordoun, for access to the Presbytery records; as well as to the Rev. H. D. Simpson and the Rev. James Gammack, Drumlithie, for kindly according the same privilege in regard to the whole records of the Episcopal Church in their custody.

In addition to the sources of information already noticed, the following works, among others, have been consulted: Douglas's 'Peerage and Baronage;' the works of Andrew Jervise, F.S.A.; Scott's 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ;' 'History of the Carnegies;' Biscoe's 'Earls of Middleton;' Dr Rogers's 'Life of George Wishart;' Sir William Forbes's 'Life of Dr Beattie;' Chalmers's 'Life of Ruddiman;' Duthie's 'Memoir of George Menzies,' prefixed to his poems; 'Memoir of Rev. David Moir;' Balfour's 'Annals of Scotland;' Chambers's 'Domestic Annals;' the 'Black-book of Kincardineshire;' Spalding's 'Memorialls of the Trubles in Scotland, &c.;' Wodrow's 'Correspondence;' the Kincardineshire Retours.

Manse of Maryton,
July 1880.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

Situation—Extent and population—Boundaries of the parish —Largely a morass—The ague—Conversion into arable land—Bogs of Bent—Skeletons found—Site of village—The "Snowy Terminus"—Castle of Kincardine—Royal gifts and honours—Claim to literary distinction—Ancient name of the parish—Modern name—Statistics of population—Manufactures—Prospects of burgh, . . . 1

PART FIRST.

THE PARISH AND ITS LANDOWNERS.

CHAPTER I.—THE LAND AND ITS OWNERS.

Scotland divided into parishes—Subdivisions of Conveth—The Berkeleys—Falconers—Middletons—Wisharts—Frasers—Keiths-Marischal—Earl of Crawford—Barons of Gray—Meldrum—Strachan of Thornton—Allardice—Irvine of Drum—Stuarts—Hamilton—Livingstones—Moncur—Carnegies—Lord Gardenstone—Farquhar and successors—Allardyce—Crombie—Dr Johnston, . . 12

CHAPTER II.—DE BERKELEYS.

Their origin — Humphrey receives grants of "Mernez"— Grant to the monks — Confirmed by Richenda — The monks dispossessed — Compromise made by John and concurred in by Robert — Hugh receives charter of Westerton of Conveth—Founder of Berkeleys of Mathers — Successive Berkeleys — Kaim of Mathers — Name changed to Barclay—A father's counsel—Last Barclay of Mathers—Inscription in Howff at Urie—Founder of Barclays of Urie—Author of 'Apology for the Quakers' —Robert the Strong—New town of Stonehaven—Last Barclay of Urie—Barclays at Newton—Supposed descent from Alexander Barclay—Earliest known progenitor— Balmaleedie—Aisle of kirk of Aberluthnott—Successive Barclays at Newton—Remarkable longevity—Representative of the main line of Berkeleys of Mathers, . . 18

CHAPTER III.—KEITHS-MARISCHAL.

The Catti — Emigrate to Scotland—Battle of Barry—Name changed to Keith—Created heritable Great Marischal— Distinguished services of Sir Robert—Grant of lands in Aberdeenshire—Sir William builds Dunnottar Castle— Acquires land in the parish—Barony of Garvock—Barnhill—Earls Marischal—Extensive possessions—Cease to own lands in the parish—Successive earls—Marischal College founded—Ancestors of Robert Burns—Marshal Keith — The last Earl Marischal — Estates forfeited— Exiled — Pardoned — Succession to Kintore estates — Death—Earls of Kintore—Preservation of the Regalia— Rebellion of 1715—Sheriff Muir—Duke of Argyll at Keithhall — Death of the fourth Earl — Title becomes dormant, and is revived by Lord Falconer, . . 27

CHAPTER IV.—HAULKERTON.

Origin of name — William the Hawker — Lands of Luthra— Ranulph le Falconer—Falconleys—Robert le Falconer of Haulkerton—The Falconers in favour at Court—Successive

Falconers—Tradition of Martin Luther—Sir Alexander Falconer—Founding of the old castle—Lands of Middleton acquired—The first Lord Falconer—Addition to the castle—A friend of the Marquis of Montrose—Historical events—Lord Falconer removed from office—Sonnet by Drummond of Hawthornden—Lord Falconer re-instated—The second Lord Falconer—The third Lord *incompos mentis*—His death without issue—Succession of Glenfarquhar family—Last occupation of the castle—Traces of it—Demolition, ... 36

CHAPTER V.—HAULKERTON—(*continued*).

The fifth Lord Falconer—Hume the philosopher—His lordship's marriage to Lady Catherine M. Keith—Character and death—Successive Lord Falconers—Succession to the estates and title of Kintore—An eccentric nobleman—Poultry-shooting—Saved annoyance—Death of Lord Inverurie—Adventures in the village—Competition for sixpences—Hard-scrape—Regret of the villagers—The present peer and his family, ... 43

CHAPTER VI.—LANDS OF MIDDLETON.

Extent of original lands—Earliest authentic notice—Middleton of that Ilk—A bold outlaw—Successive Middletons—Lord Gray—Sheriff of Angus—Temple lands—Exchange of portion of lands—Campbell of Lundie—Lands united and forming part of the barony of Haulkerton—Disponed to Falconer of Glenfarquhar—Revert to Haulkerton—Drumforber—Wineford—Luthermuir, . . . 48

CHAPTER VII.—KILNHILL AND BENT.

Early possession—Exchanged for portion of Middleton—"Middleton of Kilhill"—Successive Middletons—"Band anent the religioun"—Middleton of Caldhame—Robert Middleton killed by soldiers of Montrose—Earl Middleton—Livingston of Dunipace—Lands reannexed to Haulkerton—Clarkhill—"*Clericus regis*"—Latch, . 53

CHAPTER VIII.—BARONY OF SCOTSTON, *ALIAS* POWBURN.

Scots and Picts—Early history of Scotston—Of Powburn—United and form a barony—Meldrums—Allardice of that Ilk—Marquis of Hamilton—Robert Keith—Provost of Montrose—Alarm in Montrose—The last Scottish Parliament held in the ancient form—Sir James Keith of Powburn—Lands disponed to Falconer of Balmakellie—By him to Glenfarquhar—Haddo—Early possession—Parliament of 1560—Wapinschaws—Keith of Craig and Drumtochty—Successive Keiths—Resignation in favour of young Glenfarquhar—Incorporated with Haulkerton—Glenfarquhar bursaries, ... 58

CHAPTER IX.—BURNTON.

Derivation of name—Early possession—Earls Marischal—Patrick Falconer—William Keith—Kirklands of Aberluthnott—Lands acquired by Barclay of Johnston—Disponed to David Falconer—Lord Newton—Barony of Newton—Conjoined with Haulkerton—Early history of Newton—Denlethen, ... 66

CHAPTER X.—WESTERTON OF CONVETH.

Blackiemuir and Kirkburn—Chronological order of lands of Haulkerton—Burgh of Haulkerton—Original Laurencemuir—Luthermuir—Dira Croft—Explanation of the name—Situation—Charters—The ancient burgh—Two burghs of barony—Comparison between them—Townhouse of Laurencekirk, ... 70

CHAPTER XI.—CONVETH MILL AND LANDS.

Family of Wishart—Origin of name—Early history—"Johannes Wischard" the first of the family—Sir John the first associated with Conveth—In future charters the name Conveth restricted to mill and lands—Successive Wisharts—"Schir David Wyschart," chaplain—Temporary forfeiture of lands—Justice-Clerk and King's Advocate—

George Wishart, the martyr—Wishart of Cairnbeg—Sir John Wishart's labours in the cause of the Reformation—Widespread possessions of the family — 'Buik of the Policy of the Kirk'—Ane combat at the Salt Tron—Declining prosperity—"Captain Craigengelt"—Lands sold—Present representatives of the family—Evidence of the martyr's relation to the family, . . . 77

CHAPTER XII.—CONVETH MILL AND LANDS—(*continued*).

Carnegie family—Earl of Southesk—Carnegies of Craig—Sir Alexander Carnegie—Creation of baronetcy—Incursions of Highlanders—Lord Milton—Sir David ordained an elder—Forfeiture of Earl of Southesk—Sir John—Appointed factor on Kinnaird estates—Jurisdiction of the barons—An assault—A riot—Sudden death of Sir John—Sir James Carnegie—His education—Election as M.P.—Military service—Purchase of Kinnaird—the Earldom restored—George Carnegie—Battle of Culloden—Escape to Sweden—Purchase of Pittarrow—Beneficence of Mrs Carnegie—John Fullerton Carnegie—Mansion at Pittarrow demolished—Interesting paintings—George Fullerton Carnegie—Estates sold—Pittarrow acquired by Alexander Crombie—Author of 'The Gymnasium'—Recent proprietors, ... 85

CHAPTER XIII.—REDMYRE.

Early possession—Keiths-Marischal—Irvine of Drum—Stuarts of Inchbreck—Battle of Corrichie—David Stuart—Visitation of the kirk of Conveth—Successive Stuarts—Captain James Stuart—Professor John Stuart—Estate sold—Family of Allardyce—Dr Johnston—His maternal ancestors, ... 94

CHAPTER XIV.—BARONY OF JOHNSTON.

Original estate—Present barony—Early history—Supposed derivation of the name—Sir Alexander Fraser—Captivity of Lady Mary Bruce—Gift of land at "Auchincarny"—Margaret Fraser—Married to Sir William Keith—Their family—Chronicle of the siege of Fyvie Castle—Sir

Robert Keith—Acquires barony of Troup—First mention of Blackiemuir—Sir David Lindsay—Combat at London Bridge—Created Earl of Crawford—Moncur of Slains—Successive Keiths—Standard at the battle of Flodden—The last of the Keiths owning Johnston — Stuart of Morphie, ... 99

CHAPTER XV.—BARCLAYS OF JOHNSTON.

Successive Barclays—Burnton acquired—Minister at Kinnaird—Accompanies army to England—Translated to Monifieth—A married man who was a bachelor with nine wives—Henry Barclay, rout-master—Connection with Earl Middleton—Miss Barclay of London—"My uncle Cadam"—Earl of Northesk—Supposed cause of Ruddiman's appointment—Lands of Burnton disposed of—Barclays of Balmakewan—Graham of Morphie—A family of twenty-four children—Dispute with the kirk-session respecting Sacramental cups—Adherents of the race of Stewart—Wood of Drumnagair—Affairs embarrassed—Estate sold, ... 106

CHAPTER XVI.—LORD GARDENSTONE.

Early life—In danger of being hanged as a spy—Appointed Sheriff of Kincardineshire—Promoted to the Bench—Kay's portrait—Character as a landlord—Rector of Marischal College—Publications—An encounter with "young bucks"—Attachment to pigs—Benefactions—Death—Major Garden succeeds—Disposes of the estate, ... 114

CHAPTER XVII.—LATER PROPRIETORS OF JOHNSTON.

James Farquhar—Descent and marriage—Elected M.P.—Appointed to an office in the High Court of Admiralty—Mansion-house erected—Purchase of Hallgreen—Character—Anecdote—Death—Mortification to the poor—Mrs Farquhar—Annual examination of school—Alexander Gibbon—His character and death—Mrs Gibbon—Mrs Pearson—A lineal descendant of the Berkeleys—A genealogical fact, ... 119

PART SECOND.

HISTORY OF THE BURGH.

CHAPTER XVIII.—LAURENCEKIRK.

Village not founded by Lord Gardenstone—Laurencekirk in the seventeenth century—Gives its name to the parish—Situated on Haulkerton—Two villages—Population and extent—Gradual extension of the village to Johnston estate—Last relics of the original village—Summons to deliver up arms in the town-house—Population declines—First start to prosperity—Motives of Lord Gardenstone—Settlers encouraged—Visit of a hatter—A satirical professor—Principles on which the community was built up—Notes on a tour to England—Halifax—Newcastle—Erection of burgh—Its limits—Administration—Privileges—Masons' Lodge—St John's Day—Address of a Right Worshipful Master—Johnston Street—Garvock Street—Alma Terrace, ... 123

CHAPTER XIX.—THE FIRST COUNCILS.

Councillors first elected—Clerk—Letting church-pews—Precaution in the interest of economy—Anniversaries observed—Council-room—"Quorum or not"—Judicial cases—Tumultuous infestment—Illegal enlistment—Sentenced to pay the "drink"—Provision for the poor—Water-supply—Persistent transgressor—Hardened in his transgression—The bailie applies "his own hand"—Bowmanville—Lord Gardenstone's proposal to the people—List of original feuars—James Whitsunday—Deference to Lord Gardenstone—Sunday-schools—Intelligence of Lord Gardenstone's death—His memory duly honoured—Scarcity of work—Dearth of provisions—"We thought of better times, but worse came"—"Maister" Milne, . . 133

CHAPTER XX.—CHIEF MAGISTRATES.

George Murdoch—Alexander Gairdyne—Qualification of residence—Portrait of Lord Gardenstone—Alexander Smart—Mistaken for a priest—John Scott—Official ability—A practical humourist—Descendants—John Scott, farmer—Legacy to the burgh—James Crabb—Beneficial changes introduced—Defeat of a baronet—William Crabb, artist—David Dickson—Early years—A coincidence—Residence in Edinburgh—Sir Walter Scott—Settles in Laurencekirk—The brewery—Spurriehillock—Improved steadings—Aberdeen Town and County Bank—Enterprise as a farmer—Pert—A model steading—Public spirit—Professional character—Wholesome counsel—Death—Remark of a villager—Peter Blacklaws—Service to the burgh—Death—Family—An omission in burgh charter—James Fettes—Early years—Begins practice—Public presentation—Interest in farming—Mearns Farmers' Society—Improvements on the burgh—Gas—Railway—Clorty—Banks—The St Laurence Hall—Naming of streets—Dr Fettes retires—His death—Charles William Fettes—Last official appointment by East India Company—Preferment in India—Return home—Death—John Rae elected bailie, 145

CHAPTER XXI.—BURGH OFFICERS.

Billet-master—Constable—Procurator-fiscal—Successive burgh officers—Lang thrums!—"Firing musquets"—Andrew Watson—A dummy tested—Comparative opulence—Appointed officer—Besetting weakness—Office demitted—Future career—The first county policeman—A follower of sport—Sandy Mather—Court days—Snowballs—Sandy and his barrow—A mystery never to be solved, . . 156

PART THIRD.

NOTEWORTHY FAMILIES AND PARISHIONERS.

CHAPTER XXII.—NOTEWORTHY FAMILIES.

Carnegies at Mill of Conveth—Relation to baronets of Pittarrow—Ferrygate—Ministers of Inverkeillor—Author of "Johnnie Cope"—Baldovie purchased—Lairds of Redhall—Shank, of the Villa—Castlerig—Several members of the family ministers—President of the East India Company—Benefactions of family—Lady Sibbald Scott—Mrs Taylor—Beattie Lodge and the Beatties—Erection of Beattie Lodge—An artist's mistake—"Rich" Beatties—"Poor" Beatties—Beatties at Mill of Haulkerton—At Drumforber—James Beattie's descendants—Professor Beattie—The poet's favourite sister—Thomas Duirs—Death in a French prison—Alexander Beattie's descendants—A remarkable watch—Randell Courteney—Epitaph by Dr Beattie—Beatties at Middleton—John Watson—Beattie at Bowtory—Beattie at Spurriehillock, . 163

CHAPTER XXIII.—NOTEWORTHY FAMILIES—(*continued*).

Cowies at Haulkerton—First known progenitor—The "tua cartowis" and troopers of Montrose—Farmer at Mill of Haulkerton—Lease of Mains—Custody of Church property—"Haulkerton's cow"—Leaping-sticks—Bridge of Haulkerton—An English boxer at Laurence Fair—Farmhouse built—Domestic comforts—First sofa in the parish—David Cowie at Dysart—James Cowie—College life—Gold medals—Removal from Mains—Sundridge Hall—Labours in the cause of anti-vivisection—Publications—Lawsons at Whitesauch and Keilburn—Lawson of Hariggs—William Lawson in Powburn—Lawson Mortification—David Lawson—Rechert Lason—James Lawson at Ravenshaw—David Lawson at Whitesauch—His descendants—Crolls at Hills of Haulkerton, . . 176

CHAPTER XXIV.—PORTRAITS BY A DUTCH ARTIST.

The artist—Subjects of portraits—Reference—Mr Badenach—Family—James Duncan—James Graham—Mr Dewar (Ewen?)—John Rae—John Silver—Demand for wheaten bread—Peter Ramsay—Dr Niddrie—William Rew—Jane Rew—Callum Mortifications—John Charles—James Hay—Mrs Macintosh—A surprise—James Murray—Robert Trail—Tibbie Trail—Lord Colvill—Torryburn coal—Colvill House—Cupid—Dial—Colvills of Ochiltree—Votes at election of peers—Title disallowed—James Lawrence—"Charters"—A signboard—Theory *versus* practice—Mistaken salute—Tackles the minister, ... 187

CHAPTER XXV.—DR FORDYCE.

His establishment—His appearance—His manner—His practice—"A quiet beast"—A curt prescription—"Leein' Jamie"—"The lang fiddler"—The doctor as a preacher—Burgh clerk—An interpolation—"A temporary stigma"—A most deplorable issue—Interesting authority for the common-sense of old women in the Mearns—Club law and axe law—A sensible last will and testament—Death of Dr Fordyce, ... 197

CHAPTER XXVI.—LAURENCEKIRK SNUFF-BOXES.

Charles Stiven and Son—World-wide fame—A "gryte Jacobite"—A universal luxury—A dozen noses—Marriage-present—The last pinch—Laurencekirk snuff-box—Various establishments—The Franklin Expedition—The Defiance—Lord Panmure—Box-makers to her Majesty—Stiven's totums—The totum of classical origin—A Roman emperor—His modern representatives—John Thomson—His claim to notice—A good head—An intelligent critic—A clever chield, ... 204

PART FOURTH.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

CHAPTER XXVII.—CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD.

Site of church—Dedication—St Lawrence—A Roman deacon—Primate of England—Queen Margaret's pilgrimage to the church—Ecclesiastical superior—Prior to Reformation—The old church—Present church built—Situation of churchyard—Memorials—Inscriptions on old tombstones, 211

CHAPTER XXVIII.—KIRK OFFICERS.

Successive officers—A model beadle—Cinnamon-waters—Sharing the counsels—"He cheated me"—A long sermon—A missing child—Avocations of a beadle, . . . 219

CHAPTER XXIX.—MINISTERS FROM THE REFORMATION.

Patrick Ramsay, reader—Patrick Boncle, first ordained minister—William Gray—Lady Haulkerton's gift of land—Alexander Symson—Troublous years—Robert Douglas—Episcopacy established—Consecrated Bishop of Brechin—Translated to See of Dunblane—Ejected—Death—Baron Glenbervie—Douglas of Brigton—Patrick Trumbill—Origin of name of Turnbull—John Turnbull served heir to his father—William Dunbar—Appointed schoolmaster—Ordained minister—A keen Episcopalian—Episcopacy disestablished—Administers an oath to the assembled parishioners—Deprived of office—Deposed—Death—Arthur Shepherd—Called by the Presbytery—His death—Arthur Shepherd, Sheriff-depute—The Wysse Mortification—Records of the kirk-session—Carrying water on barrows—A protracted vacancy—Probable cause—Call not accepted, ... 222

CHAPTER XXX.—MINISTERS—(*continued*).

David Archer—Rebellion of 1715—The session's precaution —Sacramental cups—Ministers obliged to leave their churches—Episcopal clergy "very uppish"—Steps for their riddance—Defections among the people—Dissimulation of the gentry—The Royal forces in quest of the rebels—Summonses for the Episcopal clergy—Death of Mr Archer—Elders ordained during his ministry—Andrew Thomson—A distinguished scholar—Dr Beattie's obligations to him—Death—Elders ordained—David Forbes—Settlement disputed—His reputation—Death—Ordination of elders—A clandestine marriage, . . 230

CHAPTER XXXI.—MINISTERS—(*continued*).

Dr George Cook—Distinction as an author and Church leader —Call to the parish—George Hampton—'Evidences of the Resurrection'—Doctor of Divinity—Discharge of ministerial duties—'History of the Reformation'—'History of the Church of Scotland'—Bias towards Episcopacy—"Waur than the Chapel fouk"—An intense frost—A startling summons—Remarkable case of imposture—Moderator of General Assembly—The Charles Bequest—Rev. John Charles of Garvock—Resignation of Dr Cook—Family—Death—Dr John Cook—Scholarly acquirements—Leader in Church Courts—The Disruption—Translation to St Andrews—Doctor of Divinity—Moderator of General Assembly—Death—James MacGowan—Reasons for his appointment—Estimate of his character—Translation from Bonhill—His influence in Church Courts—Death—Charles Morrison—First charge—Service in India —Election as minister, ... 237

CHAPTER XXXII.—THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Circumstances favourable to Episcopacy—Parish church utilised—Hanoverian succession—William Dunbar—Mr Taylor—Alexander Cheyne—Rebellion of 1745—Episcopal church burned—Disabilities Act—Suppression of meeting-houses—Services at Mill of Haulkerton—Mis-

sion established at Bridge of Leppie—John Strachan—Eppie Bisset on the oath to Government—Persons "cathecised"—Mr Strachan called to Dundee—Consecrated Bishop—Death—Robert Spark—"No witnesses"—Mission discontinued—Congregation formed in the village—The penal laws—Lord Gardenstone and the parish minister—Chapel built—Dedication, . . . 245

CHAPTER XXXIII.—EPISCOPAL CHURCH—(*continued*).

Conditions of endowment—Rule of presentation—Right of patronage—Jonathan Watson—Presented to the charge—Elected Bishop of Dunkeld—Family—Character—Relations with the parish minister—Inscription on tombstone—*Jus devolutum*—William Milne—Altar-piece—Monument—Robert Spark—Translated from Drumlithie—The Misses Spark—The Young Pretender—Walter Mitchell Goalen—Appointed assistant—Succeeds to full charge—Removal to Trinity—Recent incumbents—The present chapel erected, ... 254

CHAPTER XXXIV.—OTHER CHURCHES.

Bereans—Origin—John Barclay—Church at Sauchieburn—James Macrae—Succeeded by a Congregationalist—Meet in a private house—Chapel erected—Dr Robb—Peter Brymer shows how he could preach—Successive pastors—Practical discourses—Daylicht—The last of the Bereans—Congregationalists—David Moir—Early life—A student—A missionary—Ordained—Assiduous labours—Removes to England—The Edinburgh City Mission—Death—Successors—Free Church—"Ten years' Conflict"—Public meeting—Charles Glass—Churches—School—Baptists, 260

CHAPTER XXXV.—SCHOOLMASTERS.

William Dunbar—Alexander Fularton—Patrick Bellie—Probable connections—Thomas Ruddiman—Patrick Falconer—Rent of the school-chamber—Dishonours his "testificat"—A blank page—Robert Mortimer—Disturbing influences of the Rebellion—Carried off with the temptation for one day—Makes acknowledgment—James Milne—

First teacher of Beattie—The school of some reputation—Dominie of the period—Scholarship—Deserts his literary labours—Death—John Scott—An element of weakness in the old system—A too sweeping denunciation—The dominie's wig—Proprietary school—Paddock Pool—Ingenious pupils—William Pyper—Appointment—Removal—Master of the High School of Edinburgh—Professor of Humanity—LL.D.—George Begg—William Farquhar—Character—Appointed minister of Forglen—Farewell sermon—Death—D. G. P. Smith—Character—Health—Death—Testimony of his great worth—John Keppie—Retrospect—Prospect, ... 268

CHAPTER XXXVI.—VILLAGE TEACHERS.

Margaret Croll—James Menzies—Dominie Robb—A wonderful calculator—A deliberate shopkeeper—Imitative pupils—Alexander Wood—Familiar figure—His "academy"—Walter Napier—Mr Wood long a successful teacher—Lewis Strachan—Passage-at-arms—A blundering boy—Street beggars—Visit of the minister—His den—A promised treat—Ordering his dinner—Familiarity of address—The Cairn Wood and its "wasp-bykes"—Opposition started—A quandary—Willie Hampton brings relief—His prediction proved correct—Blighted prospects—Last years—Death, ... 278

PART FIFTH.

DISTINGUISHED MEN.

CHAPTER XXXVII.—JAMES BEATTIE, LL.D.

House in which he was born—Parents—Boyhood—Early habits—Schoolboy impressions revived in 'The Minstrel'—First beholds the ocean—Churchyard described in 'The Minstrel'—Enters college—Schoolmaster of Fordoun—Society there—Lord Gardenstone his first patron—Master

of Aberdeen Grammar-School—First publication—Professor of Moral Philosophy—'The Minstrel'—Perfection of poetry—Rank in literature—'Essay on Truth'—'Evidences'—Oxford degree—Conference with the King—Sir Joshua Reynolds—Allegorical painting of Beattie—Characteristic letter of Sir Joshua—Mrs Beattie—Death of sons—Loss of memory—"Done with the world"—Death—'The Hermit,' 285

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—THOMAS RUDDIMAN—ALEX. ROSS.

Thomas Ruddiman—Affecting incident—Education—Fondness of dogs—Competition for bursaries—Band of gipsies—The highest honours—Lord Lovat—Master of Arts—First production—Tutor at Auldbar—Appointed schoolmaster—Salary—School—Class-book—Meets with Dr Pitcairne—Removal to Edinburgh—Advocates' Library—Auctioneer—Dundee Grammar-School—'Rudiments of the Latin Language'—Printer to the University—'Caledonian Mercury'—Death—Lord Gardenstone—Cenotaph—Alexander Ross—Assistant-schoolmaster—Schoolmaster of Lochlee—Quaint inscription—Writings—Opinion of Burns—Beattie's friendship—Visit to Gordon Castle—Death, . 298

CHAPTER XXXIX.—DR COOK AND OTHERS.

John Cook, D.D.—Early years—Minister of Cults—Haddington—Services to the Church—Clerk of General Assembly—Leader in the Church—Education Bill—Chairman of school boards—Patronage—Last speeches—Moderatorship—Death—George Menzies—Early life—Gardener—Teacher—Weaver—First publication—'Village Poet'—Keen politician—"A humbug, beware of it"—Emigrates—Editor—Death—Advocacy of the British Constitution—Church and school—'My Village Home'—Edward Masson—Distinguished student—Schoolmaster of Farnell—Secretary to the Greek fleet—Distinguished appointments in Greece—Literary work—Professor—Death—William Duirs—Appointment in the Navy—Promotion—Character—Death—Tribute to his memory—James Henderson—Charles Gibbon, ... 308

PART SIXTH.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHAPTER XL.—AGRICULTURE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

General depression—Storms of the century—The snowy harvest—Ruinous litigation—Little security—Presence of armies—Incidents of the '45—Implements—Wheeled vehicles—Roads—The first gig—Plough—Oxen—Lease of 1710—Difficulty in procuring tenants—A rent-list—A roup-roll—Wheaten bread, ... 320

CHAPTER XLI.—FAIRS.

Ancient fair—Willie Blacklaws' sweeties—Origin of fairs—St Anthony's Fair—When established—Stance—St James's Fair, original site—Origin of name—St Laurence Fair established—Site—Tradition of a combat—Katie's Market—Origin of name—Unexpected canonisation—Royal charter—Halberts for disorderly people—Burgh fair—Custom—Booths—Escape of a prisoner—Cattle and grain markets—First site—Railway—Present site—Importance, 326

CHAPTER XLII.—HOSTELRIES.

Ancient and modern—Chance Inn—Village inn of the seventeenth century—A discerning hostess—Boar's Head Inn—A capper—Bleeder and blisterer—Mrs Cruickshank—Library—Visit of Dr Johnson and Boswell—George Colman—An offering to the Muse—What it elicited—William Cream—Posting establishment—Inn upon Haulkerton—A distinguished soldier—The brewery established—Walter Adam—System of rotation—The Sign of the Grapes—Goskie and the Frenchman—Royal Hotel—Western Hotel—Origin and management—Swan Inn—Downie and the Italian musician—Downie Mortifications—Smaller establishments, ... 332

CHAPTER XLIII.—OLD CUSTOMS.

Spinning—Farmers' wives—Stamp-master—Domestic servants—Competitive exhibitions—Smuggling—Pernicious effects—Highland whisky—Connivance of farmers—Acquiescence of people—Means for suppression—A gauger's adventure—Social visiting—Strange custom—Beneficial change—Transition period—Bachelors' party—Bragging Englishman silenced—Funerals—Gratifying improvement—Old practice—James Spankie, ... 341

CHAPTER XLIV.—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.

A deeply interesting chapter—The first strike on record—Public meeting—Total abolition—Butter and eggs—Sitting near the door—Public meeting—Successful petition—Reform Bill passed—Jubilee—Juvenile Society—First political election—Bought and sold—Tory vice—Veteran elector—Musicians—Liberal entertainment—Substitute provided—March to the poll—Return journey, . . 347

CHAPTER XLV.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Sheriff-court at Kincardine—Removal to Stonehaven—Curious reason for the transference—First recorded criminal trial—Alexander Gill—Apprehended breaking into Mill of Conveth—Banished the shire for ever—Prosecution for selling meal by measure—Capital punishment—William Edmonstone—"Breaking the victual-house" at Mill of Haulkerton—Sentence to be hanged—A woman hanged—"Pyckine and small theft"—Tied with ropes to a man on the way to the gallows—A prisoner craves to be transported—Sheriff-court divested of its awe—Defender proposes to fine the prosecutor—Annals of prison life—An orthodox prisoner—Liberty Hall—Erection of a prison—The first keeper—A noisy prisoner, . . 355

CHAPTER XLVI.—VAGABONDISM.

Circumstances conducive to vagrancy — Casuals — Badges— Knavish beggars—Neil More—Jock Gudefellow—Novel means of defence—Ned Macdonald—Almanac vendors— John Grant—Marquis of Breadalbane—Michael Cowie— Singin' Willie — Charles Stormont — Tramps' lodging-house—Burke and Hare—Poor Law Act—Gantin Dauvid —Robbie Cathro—Jeannie Gearie, . . . 362

CHAPTER XLVII.—ANECDOTES.

Scottish humour—Sydney Smith—A leg of mutton—Frank confession — "She's denyin't" — Counsel and witness agree—A way to deal with trespassers—"Nec tamen consumebatur" — A melting predicament — Signing a bill —The shepherd and his dog—A voice of warning—"Aye te' fore"—A valuable cruizie—A hopeless case—Caught in the act—A barrel of wigs—Welcome home—Village Mrs Partington — Reward of laziness — The dromedary —No objections — Service announced — Black sheep— Seditious pamphlets, ... 369

PARISH AND BURGH OF LAURENCEKIRK.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

THE parish of Laurencekirk, anciently named Conveth, is in that district of Kincardineshire which is known as the Howe of the Mearns.

It extends about four miles in length, and its greatest breadth is nearly three miles. The whole area of the parish amounts to 5617 acres. The population in 1871 was 2174, including 1521 resident in the village.

The northern and north-eastern boundary of Laurencekirk is the parish of Fordoun, from which it is also separated on the east by the Burn of Leppie. Another small stream from the Hill of Garvock, familiarly known as the Gauger's Burn, divides it on the south-west from the parish of Marykirk. To the south-east lies Garvock. The boundary-line between the two parishes was of old the Deer Dyke, or northern enclosure of the ancient forest of Garvock. Remains of this dyke are found on the lands of

Johnston, and traces of it are still visible in the eastern part of the parish.

The south-eastern division of the parish forms a gentle slope, intersected by several rivulets which fall into Luther Water—a considerable stream, which flows nearly through the middle of the parish, to find its way, after a course of five miles through Marykirk, into the Northesk.

Both sides of the Luther formed an entire morass in times not very remote. It abounded in wild fowl, such as herons, ducks, snipes, and the other species of birds which were regarded as the proper quarry of the hawk or falcon. This rendered it a fitting neighbourhood for the king's hawker or falconer, who received the lands at an early period. The alternative titles of this official were both shortly utilised,—one to form the designation of the lands, Haulkerton, or Hawker's Town; and the other, Falconer, to serve as the surname of the family who have been so long in possession of them.

The inhabitants of these parts were subject for centuries to ague—a disease common to dwellers on marshy ground. Tradition asserts that they were frequently driven in consequence from the lower grounds, to make a temporary abode in the more elevated parts of the parish, and on the adjoining lands of Garvock. Traces are still in existence of the huts which were erected in those times of emergency. Little more than a century ago, in the words of an old residenter, "the deuks were quackin' a' the wye frae Blackiemuir to Redmyre." Still earlier, the Howe appeared to the eye of the youthful poet, when viewing it from the uplands in certain condi-

tions of the atmosphere, what he afterwards described in "The Minstrel" as

"Lake, dim-gleaming on the smoky lawn."

And the natives of the district, even at a comparatively recent date, had difficulty in obtaining situations as servants until they could furnish satisfactory evidence that they were free from ague. Happily, not a trace of the malady remains, now that agricultural skill and perseverance, characteristic of the "men of the Mearns," have been applied to good purpose.

The process of converting these marshy grounds into arable land, which had gone on gradually for a lengthened period, was at last rewarded with complete success by the deepening and straightening of the channel of the Luther.

In course of the drainage operations on the bogs of Bent, a remarkable discovery was made in the year 1862. A large accumulation of the bones of animals was found in one place. When subjected to scientific examination they were pronounced to be the bones of horses, cattle, deer, and, in one case at least, of a human skeleton, indicating the proportions of a man above the average size. The place in which those relics of many a speedy death were found had probably been a "wal-ee" ("well-eye"), the part of a quagmire most likely to prove fatal to unsuspecting man or beast. There is no tradition as to how or when the human life had been sacrificed. The lower animals had probably met their fate, at long intervals between, when on the way to quench their thirst at the neighbouring stream—unless, in-

deed, the appearance of a spring at the spot had lured them off their course to an untimely end. A number of the bones were transferred to the Montrose Museum, and the following account of them is extracted from the records of that institution: "The bones were found beneath three or four feet of peat, lying in a quicksand, through which a strong spring of water arose, and belonged to man and the following inferior animals—viz., the horse, the dog, the red-deer, and the roe-deer; and three varieties of oxen—viz., *Bos primigenius*, *Bos longifrons*, and a hornless animal resembling the existing Angus breed." It is added that within the memory of persons alive peat had been removed from the surface.

The village of Laurencekirk covers an elevated and healthy site at the southern extremity of the parish, at an average height of 270 feet above the level of the sea. It is visible from different points at considerable distance, and, from whatever point of view, it presents a picturesque appearance, derived in no small measure from the trees with which the surrounding landscape is adorned. The village is distinguished for its salubrity; and, though disappointed travellers by rail have conferred upon it the unenviable name of "Snowy Terminus," the frequent detention of railway trains, in the time of storms, arises from no special severity of a Laurencekirk winter, but from the peculiar construction of the line, which renders it specially liable to be blocked in the neighbourhood.

The western boundary of the parish is within a mile of the ancient Castle of Kincardine, now a ruin,

but once a favourite residence of the Scottish kings. Old charters show that the early destination of many of the lands of the parish was the result of this proximity to the abode of royalty. Favourite servants, and in one case a brother-in-law, were selected for gifts of land in possession of the Crown, and near the residence of the king.

But the removal of the king's residence from the neighbourhood did not seal the fountain of honour and reward to the parish and parishioners of Lauencekirk. Many years after, the first Lord Haulkerton, for his services to the two Charles's, was rewarded by his elevation to the peerage, and other marks of royal favour; and the erection of the first burgh in the parish had previously been granted by King James to him or his father. More than a century later still, when such privileges were no longer wont to be conferred for service to the reigning monarch in person, Lord Gardenstone had influence to procure the creation of the present burgh.

The claim of the parish to literary distinction will not be denied by those who bear in mind that Thomas Ruddiman was one of the earliest of its schoolmasters on record; and that James Beattie, author of "The Minstrel," was a native of the parish, and received his whole elementary training at the parish school.

The origin of Conveth, the ancient name of the parish, has never been satisfactorily accounted for. It has been defined by some as meaning "lands conveyed;" and by others, "duty paid to an ecclesiastical superior." It has been suggested, too, that the word "Conva," implying "plain of the hounds," may indi-

cate a meeting-place for the sportsmen of the neighbourhood. But a more likely derivation is from two Celtic words signifying "the little head or promontory," which a slight modification would naturally merge into Conveth. This definition is characteristic of the situation of the church, and, in a less degree, of a site on the farm of Scotston still known as the Chapel Knap.

It is a curious coincidence that Conveth was long the name of a parish in Banffshire and another in Inverness-shire, and in both cases was discarded for the respective names of Inverkeithny and Kiltarlity.

The popular use of the name of Conveth, in designation of the parish, was probably discontinued before the end of the seventeenth century, though occasionally it is found in ecclesiastical records during the century which followed, and the sacramental tokens still in use bear the inscription, "Token for the Parish of Conveth. Dr Cook, Min. 1814."

The derivation of the modern name of the parish is apparent, the kirk having been dedicated to St Lawrence. The date of its origin is more doubtful, and the earliest notice of it refers to Ruddiman's official connection with the school, in the last decade of the seventeenth century. It is reasonable, however, to presume that the name of Laurencekirk was familiar in the neighbourhood years before the century closed. There is no doubt that it was first assumed as the distinctive name of the burgh of Haulkerton, probably to obviate confusion with the barony, of which it was a component part. The causes which led to its adoption by the parish at large are not apparent.

The first authentic account gives the population of the parish in 1755 as 757 souls; and all the available statistics seem to indicate that the number had varied but little, if any, from the beginning of the century. In 1801 the population had risen to 1215, the increase being due chiefly, if not entirely, to the village. According to a census taken by the minister of the parish in 1835, the population amounted to 1938, of whom 1391 were in the burgh, leaving a rural population of 547. At the national census of 1871, it was found that, while the burgal population had been augmented by 130, the rural had been increased by 106, the respective numbers being 1521 and 653, making a gross population of 2174.

During the larger part of the eighteenth century the people were wholly dependent upon agricultural labour for their subsistence, the few shopkeepers and tradesmen of course gaining a livelihood from those who were tillers of the soil. A change was gradually introduced by Lord Gardenstone. Various kinds of manufacture were attempted, and carried on for a time. A starch-work was in active operation for a number of years. Quarries were opened at different times on different parts of the estate of Johnston, but the encouragement found was not sufficient to insure their continuance. A few stocking-weavers were induced to settle; but this branch of industry not succeeding, they mostly betook themselves to other employment. The craft which was earliest developed, and took firmest hold upon the community, was that of hand-loom weaving. This was not confined to the burgh in the earliest period of its existence, but

extended through the whole parish. Referring to this period, a statistical account of the parish records that "there was carried on an extensive domestic manufacture of linen, which was commonly known in the markets by the name of 'Mearns linen;' and the spinning of the yarn, and manufacturing of the cloth, afforded employment to many hands in the families both of tenants and of crofters." The work executed was partly for family use; but the surplus found its way to the markets, at which a day was specially appropriated for the sale of linen.

By-and-by, weaving at home was practically discontinued, and public weaving-shops became the rule. For a while the linen was prepared to order, or disposed of to private customers. But this practice also came to be exceptional. Agencies for distant weaving companies, mainly in Aberdeen, were established, the yarn being supplied from headquarters, the weavers receiving so much a-piece, and the responsible agents deriving their profit as a kind of middle-men. According to the statistical account of 1836, "The number of pieces and yards made annually may on an average be as under: Pieces, 5812; yards, 416,440; value, £13,106. The average sum obtained for weaving, being at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$d. per yard, is £2168, 19s. 2d. The weavers in general work about 15 hours a-day, and the more able and industrious seldom earn more than 7s. or 8s. a-week." At that date there were engaged in the parish at hand-loom weaving 68 heads of families, 44 unmarried men and boys, and 35 unmarried females and widows,—in all, 147 persons, besides a few mar-

ried women. Of heads of families at the same time there were 46 day-labourers, 39 farm-servants, 16 shoemakers or cobblers, 8 wrights or carpenters, 8 masons, and 7 tailors.

But another important manufacture remains to be noticed. A bleach-field was originated at Blackiemuir towards the close of last century by Colin Gillies, who was also tenant of Keilburn, and belonged to a well-known family in Brechin, to whom Lord Gillies also belonged, and another of whose members was a laird of Balmakewan. It was continued as a bleach-field until about 1813, when the work was converted into a spinning-mill. The mill was for some time tenanted by a family named Greig, also of Brechin; and eventually it was leased by Alexander Walker, son of the farmer at Newlands. He was succeeded, at his death in 1827, by a brother, George, who was followed by another brother, David. He retired from the concern in 1842, and, the damdyke having to give way to some necessary improvements, the work was discontinued. David Walker, who had come from a mercantile situation in Glasgow to take charge, removed to Laurencekirk, where he died in 1845. In 1827 there were seven spinning-frames in the mill, and before the close the number had increased to eleven. The number of hands employed in 1835 were 7 men and 25 women; and the quantity and cost of the yarn manufactured at the same period were estimated as follows:—

24,000 spindles, 3 lb. at 2s. 1d., . .	£2500	0	0
13,500 do. tow-yarn, 6 lb. at 2s. 3d., .	1518	15	0
	£4018	15	0

Coming to the present time, it is found that hand-loom weaving, once the staple occupation, has declined to less than a fourth of its extent in 1836, giving employment to 34 hands in all. These are composed of 16 married men and widowers, heads of families; 10 unmarried females and widows; 4 unmarried men; and 4 married women. With one or two exceptions, they work for an employer in Brechin, who has an agent in the village. While the wages vary much according to circumstances, there is a considerable increase on the whole. The average is estimated at about 12s. a-week, though one expert hand is said to be able, by working additional hours, to earn as much as 30s. The fabrics produced are sheeting, towelling, and winceys.

It is estimated that about a hundred labourers reside in the village, a large proportion of whom are householders. They consist of farm-servants, drainers, road-workers, wood-cutters, hedgers, &c. The railway gives constant employment to 21 men and boys, besides occasional work to the labourers in the village. The brewery finds occupation for 8 hands. And, in addition to those enumerated, more than a score of females earn a livelihood by field-labour, or other occasional employment.

The next census may show a slight increase of population; but the prosperity of the burgh during the last half-century is chiefly apparent in evident signs of improvement in the circumstances of the people. The large and well-replenished shops are a striking contrast to the humble establishments of forty or fifty years ago, and indicate that the supply of all the varieties of merchandise has much exceeded the

demand which could have arisen from the mere increment of population. The full measure of this prosperity is not indeed derived from the burgh alone, or from the burgh and the parish combined, but from the whole district of which Laurencekirk is the centre. But the transformation which has been effected is large enough to include all those sources of a growing demand for the necessaries of life, some of which would have been regarded as its superfluities in years not very remote. And the satisfaction is greater in knowing that in the growing importance of the burgh is reflected not only the increasing prosperity of its inhabitants, but an evident token that, as time progresses, it is coming to be recognised more and more as the central town of an industrious neighbourhood.

PART FIRST.

THE PARISH AND ITS LANDOWNERS.

CHAPTER I.

THE LAND AND ITS OWNERS.

Scotland is supposed to have been divided into parishes during the reign of David I. (1124-53). If the whole lands constituting the parish now called Laurencekirk had been separated longitudinally into three nearly equal parts, the district of Conveth, which gave its name to the parochial combination, would have formed the central division. The northern division would have been the lands lying mainly to the north of Luther Water, which formed a district then named Luthra. The remaining division, which would have been more irregular in its conformation, would have consisted of the lands included in the parish from a district of which no mention is found at so early a period, but which comes into notice more than a century afterwards, under the name of the barony of Garuocis or Garvock. The lands of

this third division were probably those of Johnston as originally constituted, Burnton, part of Scotston, Powburn, and Redmyre.

Blackiemuir and Haddo, which may be regarded as the extremities of the Conveth district, belonged at a very early date to the Priory of St Andrews; and Haddo is understood to have continued in its possession until shortly before the Reformation.

The Abbey of Arbroath was founded by King William the Lion in 1178; and, soon after the constitution of the parish, various grants of its lands were made to the abbot and his institution. It does not appear that the lands were long cultivated, if they ever were, directly in the interests of the ecclesiastical superiors. Soon after the gift, they were probably disposed of to the parties in whose favour the earlier charters are found. The lands which were thus placed at the disposal of the Abbey comprised the whole or part of Conveth, Scotston, and Haulkerton.

The rest of the parish seems to have been composed chiefly of royal lands, which were conferred by different monarchs, either in reward for service to the State, or as gifts to favourite servants of the king's person or household.

The family of Berkeley, whose name was changed to Barclay, were the first known to be proprietors in the parish. They were probably in possession of the whole lands of Conveth, to begin with; but from the beginning of the fourteenth century, down to the first quarter of the seventeenth century, the interest of the main line of the family was confined to Westerton of Conveth. A branch of the family had been estab-

lished in possession of the original lands of Johnston about the middle of the sixteenth century. This branch held Burnton also for a number of years, and their connection with Johnston ended in 1762. For many years of the present century the Barclays were represented among the farmers of good position in the parish; and, after an interval of nearly a hundred years, their representatives were found again among the proprietors.

The Falconers were probably the next family on record who owned lands in the parish. Their name is associated with Luthra in the reign of William the Lion, and with Haulkerton in 1296, though their actual interest in the parish for the next two centuries is not very clear. Their connection with Haulkerton can be clearly traced from the close of the fifteenth century to the present day. Once or twice a portion of it seems to have been temporarily out of their possession; but they have never quitted their hold upon the main part of the estate, which has continued in the hands of successive chiefs of the family. Different branches also have been among the landowners. An uncle of the first peer owned Burnton. One brother was proprietor of the barony of Scotston and Powburn; and another was the progenitor of the Glenfarquhar family, who held extensive possessions in the parish, and one of whom succeeded eventually to the title of Lord Falconer and the estate of Haulkerton. The fifth Lord Falconer, marrying a daughter of Kintore, united the family with the Keiths-Marischal, and opened the way of succession to the earldom of Kintore.

The next in point of time among the proprietors

of the parish were the Middletons. Mr Jervise and others have attributed the origin of this family to Fettercairn, but there is nothing to identify them with that parish until the seventeenth century. They were early in possession of the "Middle towns" of Conveth, and adopted the territorial name. For about three centuries they bore the designation of Middletons of that Ilk, though part of the estate had probably gone from their possession. Towards the middle of the sixteenth century they exchanged the remainder for Kilnhill and part of Bent, when they assumed the name of Middleton of "Kilnhill." Their interest as landowners in the parish terminated in 1606.

The Wisharts were the next family to be classed among the proprietors of the parish. They obtained possession of Conveth, Haulkerton, and Scotston in 1246. The two last were held only for a few years, and the chief interest of the family was subsequently confined to the Mill and Mill-lands of Conveth, which were then, as now, joined to Pittarrow. They continued in possession of the heads of the house until the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the necessities of Sir John Wishart led to their disposal. They were transferred to the possession of a younger brother, who sold them before 1631, and so terminated the immediate connection of the family with the parish.

Early in the fourteenth century, probably the whole barony of Garvock, and certainly the lands of Johnston, were in possession of a family named Fraser, whose chief was designated Thane of Cowie. They soon passed, through marriage with the heiress, into

the hands of the Keiths-Marischal. Johnston and Burnton continued in possession of that family until the time of the fourth Earl Marischal, who disposed of them about the middle of the sixteenth century. Other portions of the barony, as well as Haddo, had in the meantime been acquired by Keiths, descendants of the second Earl Marischal, to be held by successive generations; and one of the later members of the family was for some years in possession of Burnton. The last of the Keiths closed his connection as a proprietor in the parish in 1677. The Keiths-Marischal are now represented in the parish by the Earl of Kintore.

The lands of Blackiemuir came into the possession of Sir David Lindsay, first Earl of Crawford, towards the close of the fourteenth century; but they continued only for a few years, and the connection of that noble family with the parish was a temporary one.

Another family belonging to the peerage, whose chief estates lay in Perthshire, held possessions in the parish of Conveth for nearly a century and a half. Patrick, Master of Gray, who owned lands in Kinneff, died before 1464; and three years after that date, Annabella Forbes, who is supposed to have been his relict, died, leaving to her heir, William Meldrum—a child by a second marriage—the barony of Scotston and Powburn, which was resigned by his son and successor in 1543. The third Lord Gray, another son of Annabella Forbes, acquired an interest in part of the lands of Middleton in 1481, and they were gifted to his granddaughter and her husband, Sir John Campbell, in 1539. They were afterwards, in 1593, joined to the Haulkerton estate by the mar-

riage of Sir Alexander Falconer with a daughter of the sixth Lord Gray.

During the sixteenth century there were numerous changes in the parish, and several new families introduced. Strachan of Thornton was a short time in possession of Haddo. Scotston and Powburn fell into the hands of Allardice of that Ilk in 1543, and, with a short interruption, continued in the family until 1628. Irvine of Drum may then have acquired Redmyre, which was certainly in the family's possession in the beginning of the next century.

In the seventeenth century, Redmyre passed from the Irvines to Stuart of Inchbreck, whose progenitor, according to Mr Jervise, was laird of Johnston in the middle of the sixteenth century. The Stuarts were proprietors of Redmyre until 1806. Early in the seventeenth century the Marquis of Hamilton appears in connection with Scotston and Powburn. Kilnhill was then in possession of James Livingstone, who was son of Sir John Livingstone of Dunipace, the head of a distinguished family. Blackiemuir was owned by Moncur of Slains. Later on in the century, Mill of Conveth was acquired by the Carnegies; and it continued in their possession until 1831, when it was purchased by Crombie of Thornton.

The only new proprietor of the eighteenth century was Lord Gardenstone. His nephew disposed of Johnston in 1806 to James Farquhar, whose representatives are still in possession. And Redmyre was owned by a family named Allardyce from 1806 to 1853, when it was acquired by the present proprietor, Dr Johnston of Kair.

CHAPTER II.

DE BERKELEYS.

Umfrid or Humphrey de Berkeley was not or... the first proprietor of lands in Conveth of wh... information has come down, but he was the fi... person whose name is actually identified with t... parish. He was descended from the noble Engl... family of Berkeley, being the son of Theobold ... Berkeley, who was born in 1110, and lived ... the reigns of Alexander I. and David I. He ca... to Scotland with William the Lion, among wh... followers also were his uncles Walter and Willia..., and his nephew Robert. These four Berkele... were founders of families in Scotland; and o... of the most powerful and opulent in Kincardi... shire was that of which Humphrey was the o... ginator. For various services, he received from t... king a grant of the lands of Balfeith, Monbod... Glenfarquhar, Fordoun, &c. The district, which ... cluded Conveth, was called "Mernez" or Mear... which is said to denote "little hills." Donati... from his extensive estates were granted to the mo... of Aberbrothwick, or Arbroath. There is a cha... without date, but supposed to belong to the yea... 1204-11, in which Umfrid de Berkeley grants t... lands of Balfeith to the Abbey of Arbroath. Alo... with these lands it confers "conveniences of peate... and pasture from his fen of Kirkell and Cuneuetl... so that the monks and their men may have grazin...

for one hundred beasts with their followers, and for as many swine, and as numerous a breed of horses, as the monks may choose to have on the foresaid land." For the maintenance of those beasts, they were also granted a right of shealing, from Pasch to the Feast of All-Saints, in Tuberlach, Crospath, or Glenferkaryn.

Humphrey de Berkeley was succeeded by his only child, a daughter, named Richenda, who, in the reign of Alexander II. (1214-49), renewed and confirmed the donations which her father had made. She died without issue, and was succeeded by her uncle.

John de Berkeley, on succeeding to the estates, dispossessed the monks of the gifts which they had received from his brother, and which had been confirmed by his niece. The ecclesiastics, however, took measures in defence of their rights,—the result of which was, that he was compelled to give them a portion of his lands of Conveth in lieu of those which he had taken. This transaction also occurred in the time of Alexander II., by whom it was ratified.

Robert de Berkeley was the next representative of the family, and there is evidence that he concurred in the compromise which his father had made with the monks. It is nowhere specified what portion of Conveth was thus assigned to the Church, though it certainly included the lands attached to the Mill.

Hugh de Berkeley was the son and successor of Robert. He received from Robert the Bruce (1306-29) a charter over the lands of Westerton of Conveth. This included the ancient St Lawrence, and

adjoining lands which now form part of Spurriehillock, the farm of Borrowmuirhills, and not improbably the northern division of the Johnston estate.

Alexander de Berkeley succeeded his father, and became founder of the Berkeleys, or Barclays, of Mathers. "The Mearns" continued for many generations in possession of the family, though there is no direct evidence of how long Westerton of Conveth formed part of their estates. Mathrys or Mathers was acquired by Alexander de Berkeley in 1351, through his marriage with Catherine Keith, sister of William de Keith, Marischal of Scotland.

David de Berkeley of Mearns and Mathrys, who succeeded his father, married Catherine Seton; and their son, Alexander de Berkeley, whose wife was Helen Graham of Morphie, followed in possession of the family estates in 1407.

David de Berkeley succeeded in 1438, and married Elizabeth Strachan, daughter of the laird of Thornton. It was this David who built the Kaim of Mathers, the remains of which are still visible. He was one of the barons engaged in the murder of the sheriff, who was "sodden and suppit in bree." His accomplices took refuge from the king's wrath in the Fife Sanctuary; but the laird of Mathers preferred to stay at home, and

> "Buyld a lordlie kaim
> All onne the stonie rock,
> Which mote defie the sovereign's arms,
> And eke the tempest's shock."

The next laird was Alexander de Berkeley, who was the first to adopt the name of Barclay, which has continued to be the family surname. He mar-

ried Catherine Wishart of Pittarrow, who was probably a daughter of James Wishart. In 1480 he made over the estates to his eldest son, and presented him, on the occasion, with the following excellent advice in verse :—

"Giff thou desires thy house lang stand,
An' thy successors bruik thy land,
Abive all things love God in feare,
Intromit nought in wrangous geare,
Nor conques' naething wrangouslie.
With thy neibour keep charitie ;
See that thou pass not thy estate,
Obey duly thy magistrate.
Oppress not but support the puir,
To help the common weal tak' care ;
Use nae deceit, mel na wi' treason,
An' to all men doe richt and reason.
Baith in word an' deed be true,
All kind of wickedness eschew.
Slay no man, nor thereto consent,
Be naught cruel but patient,
Ally'd aye in some guid place
Wi' noble, honest, godly race ;
Hate whoerdom, and all oathes flee.
Be humble and haunt guid company,
Help thy friend, an' doe nae wrang,
An' God sall cause thy house stand lang."

Alexander Barclay died in 1483. His son, David Barclay, married Janet Irvine of Drum ; and he was succeeded by their son, Alexander Barclay, whose wife was a daughter of Auchinleck of Glenbervie. In 1497 he disposed of the lands of Slains and Falside to Moncur of Knapp. His son, George Barclay, married a daughter of Sir James Auchterlony of Auchterlony and Kelly. He came into possession of the estates in 1520, and died in 1547.

He was succeeded by his son, David Barclay, who

was the ninth laird of Mathers of the race of Barclay. He was twice married—first to the daughter of Rait of Hallgreen, by whom he had a son, George, who succeeded to the family estates. His second wife was Catherine Home, for whose son, John, the estate of Johnston was purchased by his father. The branch of the family which he originated will be noticed in another chapter.

The main line was continued by George Barclay, whose first wife was Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Erskine of Brechin, Secretary to James V. His second wife, Isobel Wood, daughter of the laird of Bonnington, was probably a sister of David Wood of Craig, who filled the office of Comptroller in the service of that monarch. The son of this second marriage acquired the lands of Brigton and Jackston. George succeeded to the estates in 1560.

Thomas Barclay, eldest son of the first marriage, was the next representative of the family. His wife was Janet Straiton, daughter of the laird of Lauriston.

David Barclay, their son, was the twelfth and last of the Berkeley race in possession of "The Mearns and Mathrys." He was born in 1580. His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Livingstone of Dunipace. He has been described as a polite and accomplished man, but extravagant in his style of living. Partly as the result of this extravagance, and partly from becoming involved as security in the affairs of his wife's family, he was obliged to dispose of his chief estates. By his second wife, Margaret Keith, he had a son, James, who was a captain in the army, and fell at the battle of Philiphaugh—and a daughter, Catherine, who married, first

Douglas of Gilliewhillie, and then Bishop Strachan of Brechin. In the account given of the Barclays, within the Howff at Urie, the two eldest sons of David Barclay are represented as having "died young." The statement, however, is liable to exception as regards one of the two,—there being evidence, which will yet appear, that a son, Alexander, not accounted for in the Urie narrative, was one of the two eldest sons, and reached the years of maturity. The third son, David, was the progenitor of the Barclays of Urie; and Robert, the fourth son, became rector of the Scots College at Paris. As the Urie family have been popularly regarded as the main line of the Barclays of Mathers, it may be interesting to trace it briefly, and the more that it leads by a female branch to one of the families now in possession of lands in the parish.

David Barclay, born in 1610, became a distinguished soldier under Gustavus Adolphus, and afterwards signalised himself in the unhappy civil wars. He purchased the estate of Urie from Earl Marischal in 1648; and his tombstone records that, "having religiously abdicated the world in 1666, he joyned the Quakers, and died 12 of October 1686."

Robert Barclay, his son, born in 1648, was the author of the "Apology for the Quakers." He died in 1690, and was succeeded by his son, Robert Barclay, whose death in 1747 gave possession to his son, Robert Barclay, surnamed the Strong, who has been described as of a turbulent and quarrelsome disposition, and fond of travelling *incognito*. He married Une Cameron, daughter of Sir Evan Cameron of Lochiel, and died in 1760.

The next laird, Robert Barclay, was born in 1751. He improved the estate, granting feus, from which the New Town of Stonehaven has arisen. He represented the county in three successive parliaments, and died in 1797. His wife was Sarah Ann, only child of James Allardice of Allardice, the last representative of an unbroken line of male proprietors from the time of King William the Lion. Through his marriage Robert Barclay received the estate, and assumed the surname of Allardice. His wife was descended in the fifth generation from Lady Mary Graham, eldest daughter of Lord Kilpont, who was heir-apparent of the first Earl of Airth and Menteith. In 1785 Mrs Barclay-Allardice was served nearest and lawful eldest heir-portioner in general to the second Earl; and the heads of the family have been successive claimants to the title. Une Cameron Barclay-Allardice, the second daughter, became the wife of John Innes of Cowie, and died in 1809, at the age of thirty-one. Her daughter, Margaret Allardice Innes, relict of Alexander Gibbon, is the mother of Mrs Pearson, proprietrix of Johnston.

The last proprietor of Urie of the Barclay family was Robert Barclay-Allardice, famous as an agriculturist, and still more for his pedestrian feats, who was born in 1779, and died in 1854.

Another family, closely related to the parish, may reasonably claim to be not only lineally descended from the Berkeleys, who so long occupied a prominent position in the parish and district, but to be the existing representatives of the main line of the Barclays of Mathers. While the Urie Barclays were descended from the third son of the last of the family

in possession of Mathers, the probability is that the eldest son was progenitor of the family at Newton. The statement, that David Barclay's two eldest sons died young, conflicts with the fact that, among the writs of Kirktonhill, there is a charter of resignation by him, with consent of his son Alexander, dated 1632.

Alexander Barclay must have been one of the two sons referred to, but not named, in the Urie inscription, and therefore older than David, the founder of the Urie family, who was born in 1610. He was twenty-four years of age at least when he subscribed the charter. On the dissipation of the family estates, while the third son went forth to push his fortune as a soldier, the eldest may have been content to remain at home, at the cost of occupying a lower place in the social scale than his ancestors had done.

Robert Barclay, the earliest progenitor of the Newton family of whom there is certain information, lived at Balmaleedie down to about 1680. It is not positively affirmed that he was the son of Alexander Barclay, or the actual possessor of Balmaleedie, but there is presumptive evidence of both facts, in the certainty that he had the right of burial within the eastern aisle of the kirk of Aberluthnott, or Marykirk, which he could only have acquired as a heritor of the parish, and which has descended to the present generation of the family. It is suggestive also to find that, about the time of Balmaleedie's being included in the new barony of Newton, erected in 1682, Robert Barclay and his family acquired an interest in the lands of Newton, which they farmed during a whole lease rent-free, the result evidently of an arrangement with Lord Newton having some reference to his new acqui-

sition. There is a tradition that this Robert was a very powerful man, and that, on occasion of one of the conflicts which were frequent in his day, he held the den of Balmaleedie or Canterland against the king's men. His wife was Catherine Erskine of Dalgety, and they had three sons, the youngest of whom, John, is supposed to have been tenant at Whitesauch about 1727.

Robert Barclay, the eldest son, succeeded his father on the farm of Newton, which, from his time, was held by the family on the ordinary conditions. He died in 1701, and was survived by his wife, Jean Cloudesley, until 1743, when she died, aged ninety-four years. One of their daughters was married to a tenant of Bent named Alexander.

Robert Barclay, the eldest son, was the next farmer of Newton. He married Mary Lyall, a daughter of the tenant at Carcary, in 1718. David Barclay, a twin-son of this marriage, born in 1733, was progenitor of the Barclays at North Water Bridge. He was the father of William Barclay, who was tenant, first at Kilnhill, and afterwards for a long period at Scotston, from which he removed to the village, and died there. One daughter of David Barclay was the wife of David Cowie, and another, Mrs Carnegie, still survives,—a venerable lady who, when eighty-nine years of age, made a first visit to London, and viewed the wonders of the great metropolis with as much relish and appreciation as if she had been still in her *teens*. Her father was thirteen years of age when the battle of Culloden was fought; and her great-grandmother, Jean Cloudesley, was born in 1649, the year which witnessed the execution of the unhappy King Charles.

How few of the persons then alive are represented now by the descendants of the third generation!

Robert Barclay, the eldest son, was the next farmer at Newton. He married Ann Middleton, daughter of the tenant at Mains of Logie, supposed to be a cadet of the Middletons of Caldhame. They had two sons.

Robert Barclay and Charles Edward Barclay were successive farmers. Of the family of Charles there still survive Mrs Johnston of Kair and Redmyre, and Robert Barclay of Inchbrayock, who has been one of his father's successors in the Provostship of Montrose.

Thomas Barclay, solicitor in Montrose, the eldest son of Charles, succeeded as tenant of Newton, and, in 1864, resigned connection with the lands, which had been held by his family for six generations. He died in 1879.

Charles Edward Barclay is son of Thomas Barclay; and it may be affirmed, with all but complete assurance, that he is the living representative of the head of the Berkeleys of "Mernez and Mathrys," in the twenty-third generation in direct descent from John de Berkeley.

CHAPTER III.

THE KEITHS-MARISCHAL.

The family of Keith owned large territory, and exercised much social and political influence for centu-

ries, in the Mearns and neighbouring counties. In the main line or its branches it was frequently represented among the landed proprietors in the parish, and space may be set apart here for a brief summary of such parts of its history as bear on this connection.

The Catti were a valiant tribe of the Germans, who have a prominent place in the history of the first four centuries of the Christian era. They inhabited what is now the Grand-Duchy of Hesse, a State consecrated in the thoughts of every British patriot by the valuable life and lamented death of the Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland. Though considerably reduced, the tribe maintained its existence for several centuries more, and a section emigrated to Scotland about the beginning of the eleventh century. Their leader, named Robert, distinguished himself at Barry in Forfarshire, where a signal victory was obtained over the Danes, under the command of Camus, in 1010. Camus was killed in the engagement by the leader of the Catti, who was rewarded by the king, Malcolm II., with a gift of certain lands in East Lothian, which took the name of Catti. The name was changed to Kethi; thence it passed into Keycht; and at last it assumed the form of Keith, which it has retained.

Robert Keith was also created heritable Great Marischal of Scotland, and many successive representatives of the family filled that high office. The family were settled in the south of Scotland for several generations. The eighth in succession, Sir Robert de Keith, served under the standard of Robert Bruce, and received a grant of lands in Aberdeenshire for a decisive victory obtained in battle at

Inverurie. He was also at Bannockburn—by virtue of his hereditary office in command of the cavalry—and his services contributed largely to the success of that eventful day. His signature was one of those attached to the famous letter to the Pope, written at Arbroath in 1320, asserting the independence of Scotland. He fell at the battle of Duplin, in 1332.

Sir William Keith, his grandson, built the Castle of Dunnottar about 1394, selecting the site for safe retreat in times of danger. He was excommunicated for having approached too near consecrated ground in his operations, but the sentence was reduced on appeal to the Pope. Dunnottar continued from that date to be the chief seat of the family. A more detailed account of this knight, and one or two of his successors, will be found under the chapter on the Barony of Johnston.

Sir William Keith was probably the first of the family to rank among the proprietors of the parish. Johnston is expressly mentioned in the charters of lands which he received through his marriage with the granddaughter of Sir Alexander Fraser. But the barony of "Garuocis" was one of the gifts to Sir Alexander which had certainly been included in the marriage-portion. The barony of Garvock, as originally constituted and held for many years by the Keith family, besides lands in the parish of Garvock, included these belonging to Conveth, Johnston, Burnton, Powburn, Scotston, and Redmyre. There is substantial evidence that the whole of these lands were in possession of the family; and, until disjoined as gifts to junior branches, they formed, along with the other component parts, a barony under jurisdiction

of the chief. Barnhill — evidently a corruption for Baronhill—was the centre at which justice was administered and councils were held, selected partly for its excellent position, and partly for the admirable facilities which it afforded for the precautions indispensable to such gatherings in those wild times.

The first Earl Marischal, grandson of the founder of Dunnottar Castle, had a charter of the barony of Garvock in 1442. The lands of Scotston and Powburn were then, or had been soon after, disjoined, and in possession of a family named Meldrum. Subsequently, however, they reverted to the Keiths, and were owned for a number of years by descendants of the second Earl Marischal.

The fourth Earl Marischal also had a charter of Garvock; and it was in his time that Johnston was separated, as were Redmyre and Burnton in all probability too. It was the influence of this Earl that procured for Kincardine the honour of being "the principal and capital burgh of the county"—a position which it held for about eighty years, when, at the request of the local officials, the court was removed to Stonehaven. The fortunes of the family were at their greatest height in the lifetime of the fourth Earl. His landed property lay in so many counties, that it has been said "he could travel from Berwick to the northern extremity of Scotland, eating every meal, and sleeping every night, upon his own estates." He was present at the battle of Pinkie, and was a supporter of the Reformation. He died in 1581, and was succeeded by his grandson, whose father, Lord Keith, had died the year before.

The fourth Earl was the last of the main line of

the family who owned lands in the parish. But the Keiths' relation to the parish continued so close that it may be interesting to follow its representatives, with a brief notice of the successive chiefs, until they are found again in the noble proprietors of Haulkerton.

George, fifth Earl Marischal, studied abroad, when he visited most of the Courts of Europe. At the Court of Hesse he was kindly received, as a descendant of the tribe, by the Landgrave, Chief of the Catti. He founded Marischal College of Aberdeen in 1593, and endowed it from his estates with sufficient maintenance for a principal and four professors. The highest honour available to a subject was conferred upon him in 1609, when he was commissioned to represent the king in the Scottish Parliament. He died in 1623, and was buried in St Bride's Church, as the church of Dunnottar was then called.

William, sixth Earl Marischal, was a privy councillor to King Charles I., in whose misfortunes, and those of his family, the Marischals were destined largely to share. Robert Burns, the poet, who was descended from a Mearns family, claims for his own ancestors the honour of having shared their misfortunes: "My ancestors rented lands of the noble Keiths-Marischal, and had the honour of sharing their fate. I mention this, because it threw my father on the world at large. They followed boldly where their leaders led, and welcomed ruin, and shook hands with infamy, for what they believed to be the cause of their God and their king." The two eldest sons of the sixth Earl were successive Earls, and the fourth son was raised to the peerage with the title of Earl of Kintore.

William, seventh Earl Marischal, succeeded his father in 1635, and attached himself to the cause of the unfortunate King Charles, for whose rescue he raised a troop in 1648, but was unsuccessful in the attempt. He fought in the battle of Preston; and when the Duke of Hamilton was taken prisoner, the thoughts of the nobles at once turned to him as the fittest successor in command. At a council of war, the Earl of Roxburgh said "he thought the first offer ought to be made to the Earl Marischal, whose family may be ranked among the first in Scotland, as having often distinguished itself by its loyalty and bravery; one who has a plentiful estate, in the flower of his age, not in the least suspected of faction and disloyalty; and—which is of itself no small recommendation in the present case—one who is not courting this preferment." But for the wilful ambition of the Earl of Lanark, his election would have been sure. The Earl entertained Charles II. at his castle of Dunnottar in 1650; and the following year he was made prisoner at Alyth when engaged in the king's service. He was committed to the Tower of London, and is supposed to have been several years afterwards in England. At the Restoration he was nominated one of the privy council, and constituted keeper of the privy seal,—honours which he enjoyed a very short time, having died in 1661. He had four daughters, and his only son had died in infancy.

George, eighth Earl Marischal, succeeded his brother, and also distinguished himself in the royal service. He died in 1694, and was succeeded by his only son.

William, ninth Earl Marischal, gave many proofs

of disaffection in the reign of William. His second son was the illustrious Marshal Keith. The Hon. James Keith, having been implicated in the Rebellion of 1715, proceeded to the Continent, and was some time in the service of Spain. He also served in the Russian army, in which he was promoted to the rank of general. Afterwards, entering the service of the King of Prussia, he distinguished himself in the war with Austria. Accomplishing deeds of heroism, he fell in a fierce conflict mortally wounded. His remains were interred at Hochkirchen, from which they were removed to Berlin with funereal honours of marked distinction. A eulogy published at Berlin closed in these terms: "Thus fell one of the greatest men of this age, worthy to be compared with those illustrious heroes who are the boast of Greece and Rome."

George, tenth Earl Marischal, succeeded in 1712 to the remains of a once magnificent inheritance, diminished of much of its territory through the troubles of the times, and by gifts conferred on younger branches of the house. Instigated by his mother, Lady Mary Drummond, who was a Roman Catholic, he involved himself in the unhappy Rebellion, and the family estates were forfeited. The net yearly rental in 1718 was £2384, and the whole lands were sold two years after to the York Buildings Company for £41,172. After many years' residence abroad, he was pardoned in 1760, and relieved as far as possible, by Act of Parliament, from the consequences of his attainder. He succeeded to the Kintore estates in 1761, and would

have inherited the title as well, had he not refused to allow a clause to that effect to be inserted in the Act. Subsequently he purchased part of the family estates, intending to reside in Scotland. But the King of Prussia, in whose favour he had long stood high, was urgent for his return to that country. He complied, and died at Potsdam, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, leaving behind him a most excellent reputation. His lordship was unmarried, and his death opened the succession to Lord Haulkerton, not only to the entailed estates, but to the title of Kintore.

EARLS OF KINTORE.

Sir John Keith, the fourth son of the sixth Earl Marischal, was created Earl of Kintore in 1677. The honour was conferred as a reward for distinguished service, especially for the active part which he took in preserving the regalia from the hands of Cromwell. His share in this important service has been openly questioned; but it seems evident that it was by his device the regalia were removed from Dunnottar, secreted in the church of Kinneff, and made appear to have been transported to France. To carry out the deception Sir John had sailed to France, and, on his return, was apprehended and examined, with the result of stopping the search which had been in progress. He had a charter of the lands of Caskieben, now Keithhall, in 1661. The title and estates were confirmed by a new charter conferring them on him and his heirs-male,—failing

whom, on the heirs-male of his brother George, Earl Marischal,—failing whom, on his female heirs—a provision which duly led to the promotion of the Falconers. He died in 1714.

William, second Earl of Kintore, took part in the Rebellion the year after his succession. He was at the battle of Sheriff Muir, and never after the disaster shaved his beard. He was concealed in his own house when it was visited by the Duke of Argyll, who was in search of the rebels. The Duke courteously ignored the fact, of which he was cognisant, and treated the Countess with great kindness. The Earl died in 1718.

John, third Earl of Kintore, was appointed Knight-Marischal of Scotland in 1733. The office had been hereditary in the family, until his father was deprived of it as the only penalty exacted for his share in the Rebellion. The Earl died at Keithhall without issue in 1758, and was succeeded by his only brother.

William, fourth Earl of Kintore, has been described as a promising young man, on whose spirits the misfortunes of his family had exercised a baneful influence. He died at Keithhall in 1761, in the sixtieth year of his age. The estates passed to Earl Marischal, and the title remained dormant, until it was revived at the instance of Anthony Adrian, Lord Falconer of Haulkerton.

CHAPTER IV.

HAULKERTON.

One of the earliest names in the history of the parish is Haulkerton, or Hawker's town, the residence of the king's hawker or falconer. The earliest mention of this official is in the twelfth century, when Gulielmus Auceps—*i.e.*, William the Hawker—is named in a charter without date. He was probably the founder of the family of Falconers, who have been in possession of the estate for many centuries, and are now lineally represented by the noble Earl who is the present proprietor. But the first duly authenticated is Walter de Lunkyir (Lumgair), whose son Ranulph was falconer to King William the Lion. He received from his royal master a charter of the lands of Luthra, supposed to be Haulkerton, Balbegno, and others in the county.

Ranulph was the first to assume the name of Falconer; and he performed the duties of the office implied in that name when the king was resident in the Castle of Kincardine. It is interesting in this connection to find that the Hill of Johnston was named Falconleys, in all probability from its having been the place on which the huntsmen on the lower grounds had been accustomed to see the falcon fasten on its quarry.

A Walter de Falconer and de Lunkyir was witness to a charter of Drumsleid in 1250. But there is no evidence that Luthra, under the new name

of Haulkerton, was in possession of the family until some years later. The lands had meanwhile belonged to the Abbey of Arbroath, and about 1246 the abbot conferred them on Sir John Wishart, along with those of Conveth and Scotston. He had probably transferred them to Robert le Falconer of Haulkerton, the first to have his name associated with the estate, who swore fealty to Edward I. of England in 1296.

The name of Falconer appeared in connection with other estates during the next century, but not directly with Haulkerton, though it is probable that the family were in uninterrupted possession of it. The Falconers of the period seem to have been high in favour at Court. There is a charter, dated "at Munros, 2d April 1365," from King David II. to his godson, "David Fauconer," granting "filiolo nostro dilecto quem de sacro fonte levavimus" a yearly sum of £8 sterling for his support, when he chose to visit his royal godfather at his Court. The family name is again associated with the estate in 1448, when David Falconer of Haulkerton was one of a jury on an inquisition before the Sheriff of Kincardine. In 1473, Robert Falconer, son of Alexander Falconer of Lethens, had a charter of the lands of Newton, which he must have resigned to the Erskine family within a few years. Before the close of the fifteenth century appears the first of the family of Falconer from whom the line of descent can be directly traced.

Alexander Falconer of Haulkerton was defender in a civil cause before the Lords of Council in October 1490. His wife is supposed to have been a daughter of Sir Patrick Arbuthnott, and he was succeeded

by his son, who appears as "son and heir-apparent of the Lord of Hawkerton" in a charter of February 1493-94.

Sir George Falconer, a knight, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Erskine of Dun. Her father and brother, father of the distinguished reformer, both fell at Flodden in 1513. There is a tradition that, at the instance of one of the Erskines, Luther Water was so named in honour of Martin Luther, the German Reformer, whose fame was already being spread over Europe. The accuracy of the tradition, however, is to be questioned, inasmuch as Luthra was the original name of the lands conferred on the Falconers centuries before. Sir George died in 1511.

David Falconer, his son, was the next proprietor. With his wife, Mariot Dunbar, he had a charter of the lands of Middleton in 1539-40, and another in 1546. His daughter Elizabeth, before her marriage, had a charter of the lands of Ballandro from her kinsman Robert Falconer, grandson of Robert Falconer of Newton, in 1552. She afterwards married Alexander Lindsay of Broadland and Phesdo. Isobel Falconer, wife of John Middleton, is supposed to have been another daughter. Janet and Marion were married to Wisharts.

Sir Alexander Falconer, Knight, was his only son. While heir-apparent, in 1544, he had a charter of the Hill of Haulkerton, probably on the occasion of his marriage with Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie. One of two stones which had done service on the castle walls, and are now prominent on the offices attached to the farmhouse at Mains, bears the date of 1556, and has the

head of a female carved upon it—indicating, perhaps, that Sir Alexander and Lady Falconer had founded the first part of the old castle of Haulkerton. They had four sons and a daughter. The second son, Archibald, was progenitor of the Falconers of Phesdo, the last of whom was an advocate, and died at Leith in 1764, leaving his estate to a member of the Falconer family.

Sir Alexander Falconer, Knight, the eldest son and successor on the estate, married Isabel, fourth daughter of Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, relict of David Strachan of Carmylie. Lady Falconer's family had been long connected with the lands of Middleton, of which she and her husband received a charter in 1593. Their second son was Patrick Falconer, proprietor of Burnton, afterwards of Newton. Sir Alexander had probably died the same year as the above charter was conferred.

Sir Alexander Falconer, the eldest son, with his wife, Agnes Carnegie, sister of the first Earl of Southesk, had a charter of the barony of Haulkerton in January 1594-95. Lady Falconer had died before 1612, when a charter of the same barony is in favour of Sir Alexander alone. They had four sons. The second, David, was founder of the family of Glenfarquhar, who were possessed of extensive lands in the parish, and to whose line the Haulkerton title and estate subsequently came. The third son, Sir John Falconer of Balmakellie, who for a short time owned the barony of Scotston and Powburn, was Master of the Mint in the reign of King Charles II. Sir Alexander was alive in 1619, when his eldest son had a charter of the barony of Haulkerton.

Sir Alexander Falconer, who was afterwards the first Lord Falconer of Haulkerton, married Anne, only child of the ninth Lord Lindsay of Byres. He was appointed one of the Lords of Session in 1639. The date of his peerage is 1647. A stone on the offices at Mains bears the initials L. A. F. and the date 1648, when an addition may have been made to the castle.

Lord Falconer was on terms of friendship with the Marquis of Montrose, who paid him a visit at Haulkerton about 1630, when on his way from Aberdeen, shortly before his marriage to Magdalene Carnegie, who was a cousin of Lord Falconer. Whatever similarity may have been between their political sentiments then, they were both stanch promoters of the Royal cause before the year preceding the execution of the Marquis, when Lord Falconer was superseded from the office of Lord of Session for malignancy. The only historical events connected with the castle or lands had some relation to the Earl as soldier of the Parliament, or the Marquis as an ardent Royalist.

Spalding mentions that "tuo cartowis, or quarter canons, haueing the bullet about 24 pund wecht," were ordered to be sent to Aberdeen after Montrose's army in 1639, and that subsequent "directioun wes given to stay the tua cartowis, quhilk wes cum no forder nor Halkertoun, on cum farrer northe." The same old writer relates the following incident of the army of the Marquis in 1645: "He cumis to Fettercarne vpone Sonday [Frydday], the day of Marche, quarteris his foot army, and sendis out quarter maisteris to quarter sum trovperis in the

countrie, and about the brughe of Montroiss. Bot Generall Maior Hurry, lying in ambush within the planting of Halkertoun, by [without] thair knouledge, issues out suddantlie, with ane gryte cry and ane schout, vpone thir trovperis, who returnit bak to Montroiss camp schortlie. And he directlie sendis out ane better number of trovperis. Bot how sone Hurry seis thame he takis intil ane vther buss hard besyd; bot he is rousit out, and routit throw the north water, who fled with gryter skaith nor he gave to Livetennant Generall Major Baillie, lying nar hand with his army. Montroiss trovperis returnis bak to the camp, quhair Mr James Strathauchin's [the minister's] hous in Fettercarne wes brynt." Only a few days before this incident, Hurry had captured Lord Graham, son of the Marquis, who was at school in Montrose, and sent him a prisoner to Edinburgh.

Lord Falconer's removal from office in 1649 was not the only sacrifice he had to make in the interests of the king. The following sonnet, by Drummond of Hawthornden, portrays his character, and laments his misfortunes:—

"I feare to me such fortune be assign'd
As was to thee, who did so well deserue,
Braue Halkertone! even suffred here to sterue
Amidst base-minded freinds, nor true, nor kind.
Why were the Fates and Furies thus combined
Such worths for such disasters to reserue?
Yet all those euills neuer made thee swerue
From what became a well resolued mind:
For swelling greatnesse neuer made thee smyle,
Despising greatnesse in extreames of want;
O happy thrice whom no distresse could dant!
Yet thou exclaimed, O Time! O age! O Isle!
Where flatterers, fooles, baudes, fidlers are rewarded,
Whilst Vertue sterues vnpitied, vnregarded!"

The poet was spared from the fate which he thus bewailed of his friend, by his death, which took place on the 4th of December 1649. Lord Falconer survived the days of his adversity, and was reinstated in office at the Restoration in 1660. He died on the 1st October 1671.

Alexander, second Lord Falconer, married Lady Margaret Ogilvy, daughter of the second Earl of Airlie, the head of another family long distinguished for their adherence to the Royal cause. In 1675 he disposed of the lands of Middleton to his cousin, Sir Alexander Falconer of Glenfarquhar, who had been created a baronet four years before. His lordship died in 1684.

David, third Lord Falconer, was served heir to his father in 1685. In 1710 he was declared to have been *incompos mentis* for the previous twenty years. He died unmarried in 1724, and the title and estate passed to the next heir, the baronet of Glenfarquhar, son of the above-mentioned Sir Alexander Falconer.

Alexander, fourth Lord Falconer, enjoyed the position of a peer only three years. He died in 1727 without issue, and the last of the main line of the Glenfarquhar family. The succession thus fell to the son of Lord Newton, who was the second son of Sir David, the progenitor of the Falconers of Glenfarquhar; and the next three Lord Falconers were in possession of the baronies of Inglismaldie, Glenfarquhar, and Haulkerton.

The fourth Lord Falconer was the last who occupied the Castle of Haulkerton as a residence. Traces of it are still found in the Wood of Haulkerton; and

the traveller by the public road may observe, along the margin of the wood, what in schoolboy legend, if not on better authority, was part of the carriage-drive. The building itself gradually fell into ruins until about 1790, when the walls were thrown down, and the stones utilised, partly in building dikes round the plantation, and partly in erecting the parish church. The fruit-trees continued to bear until that date; and the last remnant of the fine old trees which adorned the grounds was cut down not many years ago. It was a beech, said to be the largest in the county, and to overspread nearly half an acre of land.

CHAPTER V.

HAULKERTON—(*continued*).

David Falconer, who by the death of his cousin became fifth Lord Falconer of Haulkerton (the son of Sir David Falconer, Lord Newton, and Mary Norvell, daughter of the laird of Boghall, in Linlithgowshire), was born in 1681. His sister Catherine, who was two years younger, became the wife of Joseph Hume of Ninewells, in Berwickshire, and she was the mother of David Hume, the distinguished philosopher and historian. His father having died in 1685, David Falconer succeeded to the barony of Newton when he was four years of age. He married Lady

Catherine Margaret Keith, eldest daughter of the second Earl of Kintore. The marriage took place in 1703, when the lady was only thirteen years and five months old. Through this marriage the Falconers were subsequently raised to the higher place in the peerage, the Earldom of Kintore, and inherited the larger possessions which accompanied the exalted title. He succeeded as Lord Falconer in 1727. He has been described as "a man of great honour, probity, and integrity." He died at Inglismaldie in 1751, in the seventy-first year of his age. Lady Falconer died at Edinburgh in 1762, a few months before the death of her eldest son. They had a family of five sons and four daughters.

Alexander, sixth Lord Falconer, was born in 1707. He went abroad when a young man, to serve under his distinguished kinsmen, Earl Marischal and Field-Marshal Keith. At his father's death he returned to Scotland, and succeeded to the title and estates. He married Frances, daughter of Herbert Mackworth of the Gnoll, Glamorganshire, but had no family. He is said to have been a nobleman of humane and benevolent disposition. He died at Edinburgh in November 1762, and was succeeded by his eldest brother.

William, seventh Lord Falconer, was the second son of the fifth lord. He had settled at Groningen, in Holland, and married a Dutch lady. He had three sons, the second of whom, Hon. William Falconer, was killed in battle at Quebec. Lord Falconer died at Groningen in December 1776.

Anthony Adrian, eighth Lord Falconer, succeeded his father in 1776. On the death of George, Earl

Marischal, in 1778, Lord Falconer succeeded to the estate of Kintore, as well as the title which Earl Marischal had never assumed, and became the fifth Earl of Kintore, the family surname being also changed to Keith-Falconer. His countess was Christina Elizabeth Sighterman of Groningen. They had an only son and seven daughters, several of whom died young. The Earl spent many years at Inglismaldie, and some of his eccentricities were long remembered in the district. He had a peculiar craze for the use of firearms, and delighted especially in barn-fowl shooting. Whenever an opportunity presented itself he fired at the poultry of his tenants, though it must be recorded that he never failed to render a strict account in money-value for the victims of his gun. But his propensity for shooting was manifested at still more inconvenient times. On one occasion, when he was in the family pew during divine service in the church of Logie-Pert, a bird had entered by an open window, and was fluttering about, to the amusement of the more youthful of the congregation, and keenly watched by his lordship. At length it settled not far from the head of the officiating clergyman, when the Earl took a pistol from his pocket, deliberately aimed it, and brought down the bird, much apparently to his satisfaction. He spoke of it afterwards as the only thing he could do, "because it annoyed the parson and congregation"—as if a ball whizzing over their heads had been a small annoyance in comparison! But notwithstanding his eccentricities he had many excellent qualities, for which he was highly esteemed in the neighbourhood, and which were duly appreciated by

his tenantry and retainers. He died at Keithhall in 1804.

William, sixth Earl of Kintore, was born at Inglismaldie in 1766. After extensive travels in Europe, he entered the army as an officer in the Royal Scots Greys. He was married at Aberdeen, in 1793, to Maria, daughter of Sir Alexander Bannerman of Kirkhill, Baronet, and their family consisted of three sons and a daughter. He died at Keithhall in 1812.

Anthony Adrian, seventh Earl of Kintore, though usually styled the eighth Earl as if Earl Marischal had actually assumed the title, was born in 1794, and was eighteen years of age when he succeeded his father. His first countess, who died without issue, was a daughter of R. Renny of Borrowfield. The Earl next married a daughter of Francis Hawkins, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. He was created a peer of the United Kingdom, under the title of Baron Kintore, in 1838. The loss of his eldest son by a melancholy accident, is supposed to have hastened his death, which took place at Keithhall in July 1844.

William Adrian, Lord Inverurie, while in the hunting-field in England, was in the act of leaping over a gate, when his horse fell back upon him, and caused his immediate death. The sad occurrence took place in December 1843, three months after he had entered upon his twenty-second year. Shortly before, the young lord, accompanied by one or two sporting companions, spent a few weeks, and afforded a little variety to the calm which usually prevailed, in the village of Laurencekirk. All the available boys were

enlisted to accompany the youths in the pursuit of sport; to beat the woods for game; or, when there was lack of fitter occupation, to compete for sixpences conferred on the boldest adventurers in the crossing of streams, running to the neck in milldams, or ministering in sundry ingenious ways to their own discomfort and the amusement of the young lord and his companions. The evening was devoted to frolic, the outflow of which was the staple conversation of the village next morning. Doors were locked and windows fastened, with an attention to security from midnight marauders which was totally unprecedented in the history of the burgh, but not effective in all cases against a visit of surprise. Satisfaction had occasionally to be demanded for injury to the person, resulting from the discharge of pea-guns while the young men were driving through the village. His lordship's demeanour was not remarked for its gravity even in church. A child was baptized, whose father he learned was the tenant of Scrapehard. Next forenoon found him a visitor at the house, expressing his regret that he had not received the honour of the name, in which case the tenant would have sat on "Hard-scrape" free all the days of his life. But in spite of his eccentricities, and the dissatisfaction which was naturally expressed at some of his exploits, his genial nature commended him to favour. When intelligence of his death arrived so unexpectedly, "Poor young fellow!" was the first expression on the lips of many, and genuine sympathy was the predominant feeling among the villagers.

Francis Alexander, eighth (or, as he is otherwise

styled, ninth) Earl of Kintore, was born in 1828. He married his cousin Louisa Madeleine, second daughter of Captain F. Hawkins. He acted as Lord-Lieutenant of Kincardineshire from 1856 to 1863, when he resigned the office on his appointment to the Lord-Lieutenancy in the county of Aberdeen.

The eldest son and heir-apparent is Algernon Hawkins Thomond, Lord Inverurie, who was born in 1852. He married, in 1873, Lady Sidney Charlotte Montague, daughter of George, sixth Duke of Manchester. A son of this marriage, Ian-Douglas Montague, was born in 1877.

CHAPTER VI.

LANDS OF MIDDLETON.

For upwards of a century the name of Middleton has been restricted to a very small portion of the original estate, which was properly designated Midtown of Whitesauch. The similarity between the names of Midtown and Middleton may account for the fact that those comparatively few acres have retained so long what was for centuries an important territorial designation, and gave its name to a family of considerable influence in the Mearns, several members of which have left their mark on Scottish history. The lands of Middleton formed part of the Church possessions and derived their name from their central position, to distinguish them from Conveth Mill and

lands on the one side, and Westerton of Conveth on the other. They comprised the original farms of Whitesauch (including Whitesauch proper, Midtown, and Upperton), Honeyhive, Spurriehillock (exclusive of Bonetoun), Keilburn, and Midstanes. A list of the rent of certain lands in the parish embraces these farms under the designation of "Midletouns," showing that they retained this distinctive name until near the close of last century.

If the whole lands of Conveth were included in the gift to Humphrey de Berkeley, the Middleton portion must have been resigned at an early date. The earliest authentic notice of it is in the reign of William the Lion, by whom the donation to Berkeley had been made. There is a charter of his reign (1165-1214) conferring the lands of Middleton, though some assert it only confirmed the donation of a former reign on Malcolm, the son of Kenneth, who at once assumed the surname of Middleton.

Constance of Middleton, and her son Ada, made a donation to the convent at Aberbrothwick between the years 1261 and 1267. She was probably the daughter of Humfridus de Middleton, who was witness to a charter in the time of King Alexander II. (1214-49).

Humphrey of Middleton, who may have been the son and successor of Constance, witnessed a grant to the Church of St Thomas the Martyr at Aberbrothwick in 1272-73. In 1296, either he or another of the same name swore fealty to King Edward of England, and renewed the oath in 1306.

About this time there appears in history a Gilbert Middleton, who was probably one of the family, Gilbert being a family name. He had been a soldier in

his youth, but about 1317 he had developed into a bold outlaw at the head of a band of robbers. He was not afraid to strike at high game, for that year he attacked the Bishop-elect of Durham on the way to be consecrated. The dignitary had two of the Pope's nuncios in his train, who had letters from his Holiness to the King of Scotland enjoining a two years' truce with England. Middleton, with a companion named Selby, relieved them of all their money, and allowed the nuncios to go on their way, detaining the Bishop for further profit in the shape of ransom. Nor was he easily satisfied in his demands. The plate and jewels of the cathedral had to be sold to effect the Bishop's ransom.

For the next century the history of the family is unrecorded. Coming down to 1430, William of Middleton had that year a charter of the lands of Innerkany; and in 1460 there is evidence that Gilbert of Middleton was one of an inquest concerning lands of the Arbroath Abbey.

Soon after the latter date, the noble family of Gray appears in close relation to the Middleton family and estate. Laurence of Middleton is designed laird in an instrument of sasine to Andrew, third Lord Gray, in 1481. Lord Gray was the son of Annabella Forbes, supposed to be the mother, by a second marriage, of the laird of the barony of Scotston and Powburn. He may have been related to Laurence of Middleton; and it was probably in his time that a portion of the Middleton estate was resigned in favour of the Gray family. His first wife was a granddaughter of the first Earl Marischal, and he held the office of Sheriff of the county of Forfar. He died in March 1513-14.

Gilbert of Middleton was one of the inquest on the service of Patrick, fourth Lord Gray, as heir to his father in the estates and the office of Sheriff. It appears that the following year the office was resigned in his favour, as Gilbert of Middleton is declared to have been Sheriff of Angus in 1516. He married Marjory Wishart of Pittarrow, whose brother's estates were forfeited in 1499. In the "Acta auditorum" of 1493 there is a decree respecting the settlement of her dowry. Along with his second wife, Agnes Lauder, he is mentioned in connection with the Temple lands of Middleton,—a name suggestive of ecclesiastical possession, as is that also of Chapel Knap which has survived to the present day.

John Middleton is the next proprietor whose name appears. He may have been the son, but more probably was the grandson, of the Sheriff. He was the last of the family in possession of Middleton. His first wife was Isobel Falconer, who was of the Haulkerton family, and is supposed to have been the daughter of David Falconer, who acquired from her husband a portion of the lands of Middleton in exchange for the lands of Kilnhill, or Netherseat of Haulkerton, and two-thirds of the lands of Bent. In 1539-40, the lands of Middleton, Husbandtown of Middleton, and Drumquharbir were conveyed by John Middleton to David Falconer. The Middleton family will be further traced in connection with Kilnhill,—the probability being, as already indicated, that the remainder of the estate of Middleton had previously passed into the hands of the family of Lord Gray.

Isabel Gray and her second husband, Sir John

Campbell of Lundie, "had a charter of the dominical lands of Middletoun, in the county of Kincardine, 8th November 1539." Isabel Gray was the second daughter of Patrick, fourth Lord Gray, and aunt of Elizabeth Keith, wife of the fourth Earl Marischal who was the last Earl in possession of Johnston. The Campbells of Lundie were descended from Thomas, second son of the first Earl of Argyll; and Sir John, who acquired this interest in the parish of Conveth, was at the time High Treasurer of Scotland. The probability is, that during the next half-century this portion of the estate continued in possession of one or other of the branches of the Gray family, while the remainder was still annexed to Haulkerton.

The lands of Middleton were again united in the possession of Sir Alexander Falconer, David's grandson, who married Isabel Gray, fourth daughter of the sixth Lord Gray, and relict of David Strachan of Carmylie. The barony of Middleton was conveyed to him and his son by charter in 1593.

The whole lands of Middleton formed a part of the Haulkerton barony from that date until 19th June 1695, when there was a disposition by Alexander, second Lord Falconer of Haulkerton, to Sir Alexander Falconer of Glenfarquhar, of "all and haill the town and lands of Middleton, including Whitesaugh, as also the town and lands of Henston, the town and lands of Barnhill of Garvock, as well sun as shadow half thereof, as for principes and the lands and barony of Haulkerton in special warrandice." From this extract it appears that during the separation of the lands the portion conveyed to the Haulkerton estate had taken the name of Whitesauch, while the orig-

inal name of Middleton had designated the other possession. From 1675 to 1724, when they reverted to Haulkerton, the lands of Middleton, like the barony of Scotston and Powburn and the lands of Haddo, formed part of the estate of Glenfarquhar.

DRUMFORBER.

The earliest notice of Drumforber is its conveyance, along with part of Middleton, to David Falconer in 1539-40. Drumquharbir had probably consisted then of the lands on the present farm, with the "onssett called Waineyford" (Wineford), and the muir called Luthermuir, or Muir of Drumquharbir, now Laurencemuir. It had probably been part of the original Mernez, owned by the Berkeleys; but nothing is known as to when it came into the possession of the Middletons. Since passing from their hands it has continued to be a part of the Haulkerton estate.

CHAPTER VII.

KILNHILL AND BENT.

Next to the Mains, the Mill-lands, and Hills of Haulkerton, a portion of the lands of Bent has been the longest of any in continuous possession of the Falconers. When the exchange was made with John Middleton, one-third of Bent was retained.

There is no authentic record of how or when the two possessions were acquired by the laird of Haulkerton. They had probably been Royal lands, and conferred to mark the Royal sense of special service done by one of the hereditary keepers of his Majesty's hawks. Their history, so far as known, begins with their temporary alienation from the family's possession in 1539-40.

John Middleton, on entering on his new possession, adopted the territorial name; and the designation of the family for more than half a century was "Middleton of Kilhill." Along with his wife, Isobel Falconer, he received in 1552 a charter of the lands of New Tibber and Davidston, in Forfarshire. It may be regarded as in some degree confirming the relationship which, it has been said, existed between the Middleton and Gray families, that Gilbert Gray, a son of Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, afterwards (in 1591) obtained possession of Davidston and the neighbouring estate of Couston. Isobel Falconer died before 1557, and he married as his second wife Catherine Strathauchin (Strachan), a daughter of Strachan of Thornton, who was associated with him in a charter of Bent and Netherseat of Halkerton (Kilnhill), dated March 1557-58. He had two sons, both by the first wife, the younger of whom, Alexander, is noticed in connection with lands and fishings on Donside.

John Middleton, the elder son, had a charter of Kilnhill and Bent in March 1564-65, which reserved the liferent of his father and step-mother. The name of this laird appears in Calderwood's list of those "that subscribed the band anent the

religioun at Aberdeene, March 1592." The names of "Alexander Straquhan" of Thornton and Wishart of Pittarrow are also in the list. He had three sons—John, Robert, and Francis.

John Middleton, the eldest son, had a charter of resignation of the lands by his father, dated 20th December 1595. He was the last of the family to be numbered among the proprietors of the parish, having disposed of the lands of Kilnhill and Bent on the 3d November 1606, and the same day received the lands of "Murton, Cauldhame, Roishill, and others." From that date the family took the designation of Middleton of Caldhame. The history of the family was thus removed from the limits of the parish, but their close relationship to some of its proprietors may give interest to a few sentences on their future.

John was succeeded on Caldhame by his brother, Robert Middleton, who, when sitting in his own house, was killed by soldiers of the Marquis of Montrose in 1645. He was the father of the first Earl of Middleton, who, by distinguished service, raised himself to rank and power, though he failed to dignify the position which his undoubted ability had acquired.

John Middleton, son of Robert Middleton and Catherine Strachan (who was of the family of Thornton), was born about the year 1619. He entered the army as a "pikeman," but was a captain under the leadership of Montrose as early as 1639. About that time he married Grissel Durham, daughter of the laird of Pitkerrow, who must have been considerably older than himself. She

had been twice previously married. Her first husband was Alexander Fotheringham of Ballindrone. In 1630 she was married to Sir Gilbert Ramsay, fiar of Balmain; but her union with him must have been dissolved in the lifetime of the parties, as Sir Gilbert subsequently married a daughter of Auchinleck of Ballandro, and lived many years afterwards. When Montrose espoused the side of the king, General Middleton was his most resolute opponent and the chief instrument of his defeat. After a few years he became a zealous Royalist, and accompanied Charles II. in his exile to France. He was created Earl of Middleton, Lord Clermont and Fettercairn, in 1656, and the patent of his earldom is dated after the Restoration, 1st October 1660. His subsequent life was one first of great splendour, and then of comparative disgrace. His brilliant talents had to contend with a degrading habit of drunkenness, which reduced him in a few years from the position of the most influential subject in Scotland to the unimportant office of Governor of Tangiers in Africa, where he died in 1673. The estates and titles were forfeited in 1695, in the person of Charles, the second Earl, who was a warm adherent of the exiled King James.

Returning to the lands of Kilnhill and Bent, John Middleton conveyed them in 1606 to "John Livingston of Donypace, James Livingston of Cauldhame, his brother, and David Barclay, fiar of Matheris," his brother-in-law. He had resigned the lands without receiving the king's consent, and they were forfeited to the Crown in consequence. The forfeiture was soon recalled; and there is a charter of the following year, bestowing the lands upon "James

Livingston, lawful son of John Livingston of Donypace." The Livingstones of Dunipace were descended from a brother of the first Lord Livingstone, a title afterwards exchanged for Earl of Linlithgow. There is no record of how long Livingstone was in possession of Kilnhill and Bent. It was probably he who in 1613 acquired the barony of Inglismaldie, then known as the barony of Craigs, which was obtained that year by a Livingstone, and disponed in 1635 by one of the name to Sir John Carnegie. It is certain, however, that during these years the lands were reunited to the Haulkerton estate.

CLARKHILL AND LATCH.

These were the names of two holdings which, for a lengthened period, formed separate possessions, and were incorporated with Haulkerton about the same time as the lands of Bent, of which they are now a part. They were probably part of the possessions of the Middletons and James Livingstone, and may at a much earlier period have been in the hands of the Falconers. Clarkhill may have been originally the residence of an official in the Royal household, when the king was at Kincardine. In an old charter "Peter le Faukener" is designated "clericus regis" (the king's clerk) under Alexander II., who reigned from 1214 to 1249. The name survived in the parish at least until 1763, when James Blacklaws, shoemaker in "Clerkhill," lodged a petition with the kirk-session. Latch has transmitted its name to the present day, indicating a ditch on the farm of Bent.

CHAPTER VIII.

BARONY OF SCOTSTON, *ALIAS* POWBURN.

The origin of the name of Scotston will probably suggest itself to any one who bears the history of those earlier centuries in mind. The inhabitants of these parts were not Scots, but Picts. The Scots were originally from Ireland; and they established themselves in Argyll during the sixth century. They gradually extended their dominion northwards, but it was only after the lapse of centuries that they penetrated into the north-eastern part of the country. Individuals and families, from time to time, came and settled in Pictland; and the holdings which they acquired, by right or might, were called by the aborigines the "Scottistowns."

Who the stranger may have been who thus settled in the immediate vicinity of the lands of Conveth, cannot of course be known. Perhaps he may at once have become a vassal of the Kirk, for the earliest record shows that Scottistown was the property of the Abbey of Arbroath, and was conferred, along with Conveth and Haulkerton, on Sir John Wishart of Pittarrow about 1246. It probably found its way before long into the possession of the Keith family; but the earliest certain notice of it after that date is in the second half of the fifteenth century, when it formed a constituent part of the barony of Scotston, *alias* Powburn, which included Over Scotston, Calsayend (Bowtory ?), and Powburn. The formation of

the name of Powburn is somewhat peculiar, the latter syllable being but a translation of the former, "Pow" meaning "burn." It is probable that Powburn had formed, at a very early period, one of the extensive estates of the Marischal family; but it is in this combination also that the earliest record of it exists.

The first notice of the barony is a precept for infefting William Meldrum as heir to his mother, Annabella Forbes, 7th November 1467. He was probably related through his father to the Meldrums of that Ilk, an old baronial family of Aberdeenshire, the male line of which had failed in 1417 on the death of William de Meldrum, when the family estate passed to the husband of his heiress, William Seton, the first of the Setons of Meldrum. Annabella Forbes may have been the daughter of the first Lord Forbes, the widow of Patrick, Master of Gray, who owned the lands of Kinneff, and died before 1st September 1464. If so, she was an ancestress of the noble family of Gray, and her union with a second husband must have been of short duration. It is certain, at all events, that William Meldrum was a mere child when he succeeded his mother. His son, George Meldrum, who followed in possession, granted, 31st July 1543, a bond to John Allardes of that Ilk, relative to contract of excambion between them.

The family of Allardice traced its founder to the time of William the Lion, who gave charters of the lands of Alrethes, or Allardice, to the first of the name. Cardinal Beaton, in 1544, granted to John Allardice a charter of resignation of the lands and

barony of Scotston, *alias* Powburn. His son John Allardice, as heir to his father, obtained a precept by John, Commendator of Aberbrothoc, for infefting him in the said lands, 20th December 1556; and Queen Mary granted a procuratory to James Keith for receiving infeftment in name of John Allardes. Allardice, who married Lady Beatrix Keith, a daughter of the fourth Earl Marischal, was a member of the memorable Parliament which abolished the jurisdiction of the Papacy in Scotland. The family were in possession of the lands in 1628, when John Allardes and his spouse conveyed them to Robert Keith of Bredieston.

It appears, however, that in the interval a family of more noble rank had a proprietorial interest in the barony. In a retour of 5th May 1625, "Jacobus Marchio De Hammiltoun, Comes Arraniæ," &c., made a return "terris de Scottistoun, Powburn," &c. This was the Marquis of Hamilton, afterwards the personal enemy of the Marquis of Montrose, and the date is that of his succession to his father, who died in March of the same year. He was then in his twentieth year. His father, while heir-apparent, had a charter of the abbacy of Aberbrothwick, 11th November 1600, of which the transference of the lands in question may have formed a part. The young Marquis must have disposed of them, or whatever interest he had in them, very soon to the Allardice family, from whom they passed in the way already mentioned.

Robert Keith, who thus became possessor of the barony, was descended from the second Earl Marischal, whose fourth son, John, was the founder of the

Keiths of Craig, in Aberdeenshire. He was the younger son of James Keith of Craig, and was bred a merchant. He acquired considerable property; and he was Provost of Montrose, the charters bearing "Roberto Keith, præposito burgi de Montrose terrarum de Breadiestoun, Powburn," &c. For a year or two he seems to have been but a joint-occupant, as, on 19th October 1632, "William Keith disponed to the said Robert Keith his just and equal half of the said lands and barony of Scotston and others." In the month of March 1639, commissioners from the Marquis of Huntly had an interview at Old Montrose with the Earl, afterwards Marquis, of Montrose, and were lodged with Robert Keith at his residence in Montrose. During the night, fire was seen in the distance towards Edzell Castle; and the people were in alarm, thinking it was Huntly and his forces making havoc in the country. They would have fallen upon the commissioners in their fury but for the Provost, who "interposed his authority to pacify the multitude, and caused shut his gates against them." Fortunately for the strangers, the break of day discovered the error of the townsmen, in mistaking the burning of heather on the hills for the devastating presence of a dreaded enemy. What was the Keith family mansion in Montrose may yet be seen in a court leading from Shore Wynd.

The Parliament of that year, which met on the 31st of August, was the last Scottish Parliament "held in this kingdome after the ancient forme," and Robert Keith was a member of it, as commissioner from the burgh of Montrose. It was "solemlie riddin" on the opening day. First the commissioners of burghs

rode two and two in order, Robert Keith having as his associate David Anderson, commissioner from Cupar. Then the commissioners of shires rode two and two, Kincardineshire being represented by the lairds of Morphie and Balmain. Next followed the lords: "the eldest in place and dignity had the right hand, and one his lefte did the youngeste ryde." After them were the respective bearers of the privy seal, the sword, the sceptre, and the crown. "The Earle Marischall did not ryde upe, bot in the doune coming he did ryde one the left hand of the sword." Trumpeters, pursuivants, and heralds were in attendance, and last of all was his Majesty's Commissioner, Lord Traquair, enviroined with sixteen gentlemen, his friends, bareheaded. "In this order did they ryde from the palace of Holyrudhousse to the corner of St Geilles Churche, quher they dismounted from their horsses, and in order entred the Parliament Closse towardes the Housse."

The initials and date R. 1666. K. on a funeral monument in the old church of Garvock, if they refer to Robert Keith, as they probably do, indicate that as the year of his death. It is certain that he had died before 4th April 1677, as at that date "Sir James Keith of Powburn, eldest son and apparent heir male and of taillie of the deceased Robert Keith of Powburn, disponed to Sir John Falconer of Balmakelly, Master of his Majesty's Mint, the lands and barony of Scotston." Sir James had shown all the loyalty for which the Keiths were distinguished, and adhered to the Royal cause, suffering many hardships on its account. His services were rewarded by Charles II., who created him a

baronet, with the title of Sir James Keith of Powburn. This honour was conferred in 1663. He married a daughter of Lammie of Dunkennie; but, according to Douglas's Baronage, in which his Christian name is incorrectly given as George, he had no surviving issue. It may be stated, however, that in Chamberlayne's List of Baronets, published in 1741, there appears the name of Sir James Keith of Powburn; and it is worthy of remark that in this list the older and more recent spelling of the name is adopted, and not the corrupt form of Pollburn, which prevails in parochial documents of the eighteenth century.

Sir John Falconer, who was a brother of the first Lord Falconer, retained possession of the lands only for a few years. On the 24th of December 1684, he disponed to his nephew, Sir Alexander Falconer of Glenfarquhar, the lands and barony of Scotston and the lands of Shiells. Sir Alexander, who was the eldest son of Sir David Falconer of Glenfarquhar, was created a baronet, 20th March 1670-71. During his possession there was a new erection of the barony of Scotston, with the lands of Haddo and Shiells thereto united. It will be necessary, therefore, to go back to the earlier records of the lands of

HADDO.

The first name identified with its possession is that of John Strachan of Thornton, who is said to have received, in 1560, the lands of Haddo from the Priory of St Andrews, to which they had previously belonged.

He was a member of the famous Parliament of 1560. It is interesting to find that the small parish of Conveth had thus sent three of its adjacent proprietors (Wishart and Allardice being the other two) to a Parliament to whose counsels the blessings of the Reformation are due. In 1574 John Strachan was appointed Commissioner for Kincardineshire for the wapinschaws, which were ordered to be held twice a-year throughout the country. But he had previously severed his connection with Haddo, having, on the 21st of September 1561, granted a charter of its lands to James Keith, designated of Drumtochtie, grandfather of Robert Keith of Powburn.

James Keith was the great-grandson of the second Earl Marischal, and head of the family of Craig. Though proprietor of the lands of "Drumtochtie, Harviestoun, Woodstoun," &c., he had received a lease of the lands of Shiells on favourable conditions from his chief, and made his residence there. The date of his obtaining those possessions in Kincardineshire was 1559, and in 1570 he obtained a charter of half of the lands of Glenskenno, and part of the lands of Balnely in Forfarshire. It is recorded that "he, being a man of parts and merits, and sincerely attached to the interests of the unfortunate Queen Mary, and also a mighty favourite of his chief, the Earl Marischal, was appointed captain of his castle of Dunnottar." His wife was daughter of William Fullerton of Cragoe, and he was succeeded on the family estates by his son.

James Keith, who also is variously designated as of Craig and Drumtochtie, was infefted heir of his father in possession of Haddo in 1575. He had

three sons—George who was knighted, William, and Robert; and probably a daughter, Margaret, who became the wife, first, of Guthrie of Lunan, and, secondly, of David Barclay of Mathers.

Sir George Keith, designated of Drumtochtie, was infefted heir of his father in possession of Haddo in 1618, and disposed of it in 1623 to "John Allardes of that Ilk." Allardice, with consent of his lady, resigned Haddo, probably in 1628, along with the barony of Scotston and Powburn, to Robert Keith of Bredieston and William Keith of Burnton. William disponed his share of Haddo, along with his interest in Scotston, to Robert in 1632, and it came in due course to be included in the disposition of lands by Sir James Keith to Sir John Falconer, who disponed it in turn to his nephew, Sir Alexander Falconer.

There is an instrument of resignation, dated January 1686, in favour of Sir Alexander Falconer, younger of Glenfarquhar, on the recurrences in the disposition of the barony of Scotston with the lands of Haddo of 1684, and disposition of Shiells by George, Earl of Marischal (July 8, 1685). And that is followed by a charter, of date September 3, 1686, of resignation under the great seal, to Sir Alexander Falconer of Glenfarquhar, of the said lands all united into one barony, to be called the barony of Scotston. The lands in question continued in possession of the Glenfarquhar family until his son, Sir Alexander Falconer, succeeded to the title of Lord Falconer, when they were incorporated with the Haulkerton estate in 1724.

It was this Sir Alexander who, in 1716, founded

two bursaries at King's College, Aberdeen, of the annual value of sixteen guineas, tenable for four years, with preference to (1) boys of the name of Falconer; (2) boys born or educated at the school of Conveth; (3) boys born or educated at the school of Fordoun; and (4) any other boys presented by the patron.

CHAPTER IX.

BURNTON.

The name by which the lands of Burnton are designated has shared the fate of much of the proprium-nomenclature of Scotland. In what may be called genteel conversation, it occurs now only in a corrupt form, which unconsciously begets an idea that it had once been so intimately connected with water as to have become distinguished as "the town of the burn or stream." The fact, however, is, that any distinction conferred by its name is due rather to fire; and what is regarded as the more vulgar pronunciation is the correct one, marking it out as "the brunt toun" (the burned town). In two early charters it appears under the forms of Brunstoun and Brynttown respectively; and as the earlier one belongs to the beginning of the sixteenth century, it must have been before that date that the casualty occurred which has given it the name. Whether it had been the act of an enemy, or only the result of an accident, does not appear on record.

The probability is, that Burnton and Johnston were long joint possessions of the Frasers and Keiths successively. The third Earl Marischal had a charter "of the lands of Brunstoun and Johnstoun, in the county of Kincardine, 2d February 1506-7." His grandson, the fourth Earl, had a charter, while heir-apparent, "of the lands of Cowie, Strathauchin, Culpresso, Owres (Uras), Brynttown, and Johnston, in the county of Kincardine," dated 22d April 1525.

In the beginning of the next century the lands were in possession of Patrick Falconer of Newton, uncle of the first Lord Falconer of Haulkerton; and the proprietor of Burnton in 1626 was William Keith. That year David Barclay of Mathers married, as his second wife, Margaret Keith, alleged to have been sister of William Keith of Burnton, and relict of Guthrie of Lunan. In the Urie records she is described as granddaughter of the Earl Marischal; but it is more likely that she was a daughter of James Keith of Craig. It must be stated, however, that in a retour, April 30, 1633, "Margaretta Keith, sponsa Davidis Barclay de Matheris," is described as "hæres portionarum Magistri Alexandri Keith de Benholme (vel Phaisdo) patris." The Hon. James Keith of Benholm, a younger son of the fifth Earl Marischal, left three daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom was Margaret Keith, who is represented in the "Peerage" as having died unmarried. These conflicting statements make it impossible to pronounce with confidence to which of the families Margaret Keith actually belonged. The interrelations of William Keith with Robert Keith, in regard to the barony of Scotston and lands of

Haddo, imply that they were of the same family. In 1632, David Barclay, the last of the Barclays of Mathers, with consent of his son Alexander, resigned a portion of the Kirklands of Aberluthnott (Marykirk) in favour of John Barclay of Johnston, who contracted to dispone them in turn to William Keith of Burnton. These lands passed from him in 1637, —in liferent to Patrick Leighton of Dunninald, and in fee to his son, Alexander Keith, whose relict, Catherine Leighton, disposed of them to Sir James Keith of Glaswell.

The next proprietor of Burnton was John Barclay of Johnston, who had probably received possession of it in 1632, or soon after. His grandson, John Barclay, along with Earl Marischal, disponed the lands of Burnton to another Barclay, whose Christian name does not appear in the contract which was made 29th March 1666, and implemented by charter the following year. Again, on May 14, 1670, the lands were disponed by John Barclay and his son to David Falconer of Newton.

David Falconer, the second son of Sir David Falconer of Glenfarquhar, was born in 1639. Having qualified for the legal profession, he was appointed a Lord of Session, June 11, 1676, and promoted to the President's chair, July 5, 1682. He was highly distinguished as a lawyer and judge. He died at Edinburgh, December 15, 1685, in the forty-sixth year of his age.

The whole lands in possession of Sir David, including Burnton, were in 1678 united and erected into a barony, to be called the barony of Newton, with a dispensation for taking sasine at the manor-

place of Newton. In 1681 he acquired, from the Earl of Northesk and others, possession of the baronies of Dunlappie and Inglismaldie. The following year (February 25, 1682) there was a charter of resignation, novodamus, and erection under the great seal to Sir David Falconer, Newton, of lands of Barns and Newton; Smiddiehill, Clettans, and Unthanks; Burnton, barony of Dunlappie, barony of Inglismaldie, lands of Capo, lands of Balmaleedie, barony of Morphie Fraser, lands of Canterland, erecting these whole lands into the barony of Newton, the manor-place of Inglismaldie to be principal messuage.

When Sir David's eldest son succeeded his cousin as fifth Lord Falconer, the lands of Burnton, with the lands above named, were conjoined with the estate of Haulkerton.

The lands of Newton lying so near and having been so long connected with the parish, it may be interesting to give a short account of their earlier history. "Balmacalye" and Newton may be traced back to the possession of Thomas, first Lord Erskine, and second Earl of Mar of the name of Erskine, who resigned them to Alexander, his son and heir-apparent, August 12, 1489. Alexander's son Robert, third Lord Erskine and fourth Earl, &c., in exchange for the lands of Cambusbarron, in Stirlingshire, granted to John Lamby, son and heir of Alexander Lamby of Duncany, a charter of all and whole the lands of Newton, with the pertinents lying in the barony of Balmakelly and sheriffdom of Kincardine, August 10, 1511. The Lamby family seem to have held the estate of Newton until 1613, when it passed

from the Right Honourable George Lamby of Duncany to the possession of Patrick Falconer, who had probably then, or soon after, disposed of Burnton to William Keith.

Denlethen—that resort, from time immemorial, of the youth of Laurencekirk in the blaeberry season—may have derived its name from Lethens, in the county of Nairn, which was many years in possession of different branches of the Falconer family. The lands of Newton were conferred by charter on Robert Falconer, son of the proprietor of Lethens, in 1473.

CHAPTER X.

WESTERTON OF CONVETH.

The first mention of Westerton of Conveth is in a charter by Robert the Bruce in favour of Hugh de Berkeley. The lands may have been in possession of the Berkeleys from the time of their first settlement in the parish. And it is not unlikely that they continued in their possession until the time of the last Barclay of Mathers. It was during his lifetime that the various portions into which they were broken up come first under notice. Blackiemuir and Kirkburn (which latter was probably the eastern portion of the land leased with the Inn) were in the hands of Moncur of Slains early in the seventeenth century. The remainder of the estate seems to have been added about the same time to the barony of

Haulkerton. The order in which the various annexations were made to the original estate of Haulkerton may be given in short compass in the following designation from the family writs:—

"Precept from Chancery on retour of service of Alexander, Lord Falconer of Haulkerton, as nearest heir-male of Alexander, Lord Falconer of Haulkerton, his father, for infefting him in the lands and barony of Haulkerton, comprehending therein the lands and Mains of Haulkerton, Mill and Mill-lands, the lands of Hills of Haulkerton, the lands of Bent, the lands of Middleton, Easter Middleton, Husbandtown and the onsset called Waineyford (the Muir of Cammock), the muir called Luthermuir, or Muir of Drumquharber, the lands called Netherseat of Haulkerton, *alias* Killhill, and the corn-mill of Killhill and mill-lands (the lands and barony of Glensauch), the lands of Clarkhill and Latch, the burgh of barony of Haulkerton, the lands called Dira Croft or Bellakers (the lands of Henstown and Barnhill, and the lands of Wester Cowlargo), 8th May 1672."

From this it appears that the last of the lands in the parish to be annexed were the burgh of barony of Haulkerton and the lands called Dira Croft.

BURGH OF BARONY OF HAULKERTON.

The burgh of Haulkerton comprehended the lands constituting the original farm of Borrowmuirhills, a small portion of Spurriehillock, formerly named Bonetoun, and the other lands immediately adjoining the village, which were on the Haulkerton estate until

the excambion in connection with improvements at Blackiemuir. It was incorporated with Haulkerton prior to the 21st April 1619, when it appears in a charter, by King James I., of confirmation to Alexander Falconer, eldest son of Sir Alexander Falconer of Haulkerton, Knight:—

"Et totum et integrum burgum baroniæ, nuncupatum lie burgum de halkertoun cum omnibus mundinis, privilegiis liberatione eidem burgo baroniæ liberisque mundinis et foris eiusd. spectan. et pertin. et presertim illa mundina et fora super lie Lauren [muram ?] annuatim tertio die mensis Augusti et continuatim inclusive."

In another writ there is allusion to "the burgh of barony of Haulkerton, with the sundry markets and fairs thereof, and specially the yearly fair and market held upon Laurencemuir."

It is thus evident that the original stance of Laurence fair was within the burgh of Haulkerton, upon the Burgh Muir, now Borrowmuirhill, which was at that early date named Laurencemuir. The muir on which it was afterwards held, and from which it was recently transferred to near its original site, was then called Luthermuir, or Muir of Drumquharber. The name of St Laurence had been carried along with the fair when it was removed to that part of the barony, which accounts satisfactorily for its finding the way to such a distance from the church, with which it was immediately connected.

DIRA CROFT OR BELLAKERS.

The Dira Croft was an unfailing appendage to the church-lands of a parish, being allotted to the sexton or officer of the church. A retour of 1607 connects the name of Sir John Wishart with "crofta jacente prope templum de Fordoun vocato Diraycroft." In another, of date 1636, there is reference to "crofta terræ nuncupata Paroche Croft et Diraland de Fettercairn." The word Dira is said to have originally meant "vagabond." It came to be applied to mercenaries in the service of the barons and others who had need of hired followers. It was adopted ecclesiastically to designate a church official. The family name of Dewar is said to have sprung from Dira.

The lands of Diracroft, or Bellakers, situated a little to the north of the railway station, and now on the estate of Haulkerton, belonged originally to the Rectory of Conveth. There is no record of how or when it passed from the hands of the ecclesiastics. In a charter, of date 24th June 1646, it is declared to have been in possession of the Falconers from time immemorial—"ultra hominum memoriam ante nunc." It had previously been conceded, with consent of "Master Patrick Falconer," son of Sir Alexander Falconer, who may have been the same as was in possession, first of Burnton, and afterwards of Newton. In the charter referred to, it was "united and annexed to the lands of the barony of Halkertoun, and the burgh of barony of the same." This charter includes in the annexation to the burgh of Halkertoun—

"Totas et integras predictas terras vocatas lie Diracroft, alias Belaikeris cum domibus, edificiis, hortis, toftis, croftis, et omnibus suis pertinenciis, nunc vocatas lie Kirktoun de Conveth alias St Laurance."

The Kirkton of Conveth thus annexed to the burgh was probably situated on the site of the St Laurence Hall, the Aberdeen Town and County Bank, and the adjacent grounds. In the same charter the new addition to the burgh is gifted—

"Cum privilegio et libertate liberi fori hepdomadarii tenendi ibidem die Mercurii vel si dies ille fuerit dies solemnitatis vel dies jeiunii proximo die legitimo subsequente, ac specialiter generalis mundinæ tenendæ super dictas terras semel in anno toto decimo septimo die mensis Januarii si dies ille not sit dies Dominicus et in eo casu proximo die legitimo subsequente."

The day set apart for the annual fair being St Anthony's Day, it was called by the name of the saint; and it was originally held, probably, on the very site now occupied by the Bank.

In connection with the Kirkton of Conveth, it may be stated that the name also appears in the charter of the burgh of Laurencekirk obtained by Lord Gardenstone, from which the following sentence is extracted: "And likewise all and whole the lands of Blackcockmuir with the mill thereof, mill-lands and pendicle of the said mill-lands, now commonly called the Haugh, multures and sequels of the said mill, along with the acres, houses, biggings, and tofts of Kirktown of Conveth, parts, pendicles, annexes, connexes, of all and whole the foresaid lands, and whole pertinents thereof, lying in the parish of Con-

veth, and regality of St Andrews, and sheriffdom of Kincardine." No record has been found of the transference of Kirkton from Haulkerton to Johnston. It had probably been the result of some arrangement similar to that which, more than a century afterwards, disjoined the remaining lands of the burgh from the one estate, and added them to the other.

THE ANCIENT BURGH.

The burgh of Haulkerton, when thus extended to include Diracroft and the Kirkton of Conveth, probably came soon to be designated by the name which Lord Gardenstone borrowed and applied to the more modern erection. The Burgh Muir had already taken its name from the saintly patron of the church; the hamlet, added in 1646, had already identified itself with the name of St Laurence; and, probably as a means of distinguishing it from the barony, the burgh of Haulkerton came to be known as Laurencekirk.

It is remarkable that the parish should thus comprise two burghs of barony, one contiguous to the other. The absence of the charter constituting the older burgh is to be regretted. It had been equipped, no doubt, with the full machinery of government. It would have been interesting to compare the privileges conferred on the burgesses of Haulkerton with those enjoyed by the existing burgesses of Laurencekirk, and to note the points in which the burghs may have differed in the method of government; the rights of electors, if such rights were allowed; and the qualification of councillors, if the

lord of the barony did actually honour the seniors of the burgh to sit with him in council and share his legislative powers. One privilege was common to both. The elder burgh, from its earliest existence, had the privilege of a yearly fair; and from 1646 it was privileged, like its younger sister, to hold a weekly market, and had the rights of another annual fair conferred upon it. The right to a weekly market had probably not been taken advantage of for any lengthened period.

Whatever its population may have been in former times, the burgh of Haulkerton has in some measure shared the fate of parishes and districts in large cities, such as Glasgow, from which people have been driven to make room for warehouses, &c. The residenters are few, and the constituency would be small were a prayer for resuscitation made and granted. But, as a centre of industry, the sister burgh has nothing to be compared with it in importance, including as it does the Aberdeen Town and County Bank, the Brewery premises, the railway station, and the adjoining granaries. If to their residents are added the dwellers in the public school and on the farm of Borrowmuirhills, the list of modern representatives of the ancient burgh will be complete. There is no record of when the burgh became virtually extinct; and probably the last important relic of it had been a building, such as the modern burgh has not yet aspired to—the Town-house of Laurencekirk, in which the delivery of arms was made after the Rebellion of 1745.

CHAPTER XI.

CONVETH MILL AND LANDS.

Family of Wishart.

The few acres which still bear the name of Conveth now form a part of the estate of Pittarrow. The distinguished family, of whose large possessions in the Mearns and other counties they were once but an insignificant portion, is more identified with the neighbouring parish of Fordoun, which at an early period almost entirely belonged to its several branches. It appears, however, that long before the barony of Pittarrow owned their sway Conveth was in the hands of the Wisharts; and the interest which clings to this remnant of Conveth, and is inseparable from the name of Wishart, invites a protracted lingering over their relation, which would hardly have been justified by the proportion which it bears to the parish, or even to the whole of the original estate.

The origin of the name of Wishart has been variously given, and the family has been traced to different sources. One account is, that the first Wishart was a natural son of David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of William the Lion, who was named "Guishart" from the circumstance of his having inflicted a heavy slaughter on the Saracens. Another holds that the family was descended from a distinguished Norman, so called from the cunning of his

disposition. A third, without fixing the origin of the family, bears that the first member of it, being distinguished for his wisdom, was named "Wise-heart." This version was adopted by the writer of the inscription on the tomb of Dr George Wishart, private chaplain and biographer of the Marquis of Montrose, who was of the house of Logie-Wishart in Angus—

> HIC RECUBAT CELEBRIS DOCTOR SOPHOCARDIUS ALTER,
> ENTHEUS ILLE Σοφοσ καρδιαν AGRICOLA.

The first of the family whose name is on record was "Johannes Wischard, vicecomes de Mernez,"—John Wishart, Sheriff of Kincardineshire when Alexander II. was king. He had three sons. William, the second son, was a churchman of distinguished abilities. He was appointed Chancellor of the kingdom in 1256, and he resigned that office, when elected Bishop of Glasgow, in 1270. His personal influence may be judged by the fact of his consecration having taken place at Scone, notwithstanding the rule of the Pontiff that every bishop-elect should be consecrated at Rome. The sheriff's third son, Adam, was founder of the family of Wisharts in Forfarshire. His eldest son was the first whose name is associated with Conveth.

Sir John Wishart, who was knighted by Alexander II., obtained from Adam, Abbot of Arbroath, the lands of Conveth in 1246. This was probably after the restitution of lands in Conveth by John de Berkeley. A condition was afterwards attached, supposed to be about 1260, that he should not alienate any portion of the lands without the abbot's consent. The lands of Middleton may already have been dis-

joined; and as Westerton of Conveth was retained in the hands of the Berkeley family, the Conveth portion of the abbot's grant may have consisted only of the lands which still bear the name. It is worthy of notice that in all future charters the name of Conveth is only associated with the mill and its lands.

Sir John Wishart, the eldest son, succeeded his father. Along with his son, also named John, he swore fealty to the English king, Edward I., at Elgin, in 1296. For the next hundred years the name of Wishart is not found coupled with the lands of Conveth.

"Dominus Joannes Wishart de Pittarro" entered into an indenture with the Abbot of Arbroath respecting the Mill and Mill-lands of Conveth. He was the fifth baron of the house, and the first to be designated of Pittarrow. He was probably the Sir John Wishart whose servants in 1391 were fined in a justiciary court by Sir William Keith, Sheriff of Kincardineshire—who was prohibited, however, by the king, from enforcing payment of the fines.

Sir John Wishart, son of the former, was in the suite of the Princess Margaret when she married the Dauphin, afterwards Louis XI., in 1434. He had previously distinguished himself, in a less honourable manner, as one of the barons engaged in the murder of the sheriff on the Hill of Garvock. For this his estates were temporarily forfeited. His name appears in 1442 as "Sir John Wyschart, lord of Pettarrow, Knight," when he presented "Schir David Wyschart," as his chaplain, with an endowment of ten merks yearly, payable from his lands.

Alexander Wishart was in possession of Pittarrow

in 1447, when he witnessed the resignation of lands in Maryton by William Fullerton.

James Wishart, who is supposed to have been a younger brother, succeeded Alexander. He obtained from the Abbot of Arbroath a charter of the Mill and Mill-lands of Conveth in 1461. He died in 1491, and was followed in possession by his son. He had two daughters; Marjory, the wife of Gilbert Middleton—and Catherine, who was married to Alexander de Berkeley.

John Wishart was his successor. He forfeited his estates, or a portion of them, in 1499; but the cause of forfeiture is not known. He had died before October 1510.

James Wishart, the eldest son, and Janet Lindsay, his spouse, were infefted in the lands belonging to his late father, on a precept granted by the Abbot of Arbroath. He was appointed Justice-Clerk and King's Advocate in 1513, and he resigned these offices before his death, which took place in 1525. By his first wife he had two sons—John, who succeeded him, and James, who is styled "of Carnebege;" and two daughters, who married, the one James Durham of Pitkerrow, and the other George Leslie of Pitnamoon. James Wishart's second wife was Elizabeth Learmont, nearly related to the laird of Balcomie in Fife. The only child of the second marriage was George Wishart, the martyr, whose cruel murder did so much to hasten the Reformation. He was born, it is supposed, in 1513, and suffered at St Andrews in 1546, at the age of thirty-three years.

John Wishart was the next laird. David Beaton, Abbot of Arbroath, directed a precept in 1525, infeft-

ing him as heir to his father in the Mill and lands of Conveth held by the Abbey in chief. The precept bears only the abbot's signature and seal. Beaton, the future cardinal, and wanton murderer of the youngest brother, is understood to have been related to the family—a circumstance which probably enhanced the bitterness of his hatred against the youth, whose popularity he feared, and whose influence for the reformation of religion he sought, with unparalleled cruelty and folly, to extinguish in the flames to which his body was consigned by a wicked and illegal decree. John Wishart died without issue. His brother, who had predeceased him, had four sons and two daughters. Alexander, the third son, married Marion, daughter of Falconer of Haulkerton, and, for a short period after 1556, possessed a portion of the lands of Haulkerton. James, the second son, was styled "of Balfeith."

Sir John Wishart, eldest son of James Wishart of Cairnbeg, succeeded to the family estates on the death of his uncle. His wife was Janet Falconer of Haulkerton; and they were, for a short time after 1557, in joint possession of a third part of the lands of Haulkerton. Sir John took a distinguished place among the Scottish nobles and gentry, whose labours were duly rewarded with the Reformation. His name is closely associated with the names of Knox, Erskine, and others familiar in the history of that period. Along with others, he was instrumental in procuring the return of Knox from Geneva; and, with Erskine of Dun, he was indefatigable in the counsels which prevailed to give early and firm root to the reformed religion in Angus and Mearns. He

followed his grandfather's pursuit of the law, and held various offices, which were all made instrumental in promoting the good cause. He was a member of the Parliament which ratified the Confession of Faith in 1560, and was one of fourteen persons to whom the government of the State was intrusted. Sir John was Comptroller and Collector-General of Teinds; and a common saying among the Reformed clergy, whose stipends were not of the highest, was, "The good laird of Pitarro was ane earnest professor of Christ, but the mekle Devill receave the Comptroller." The economy which characterised him officially was applied to his own affairs. But it did not save him from reverse of fortune, which he sustained oftener than once. For opposition to the marriage of the Queen and Darnley he was declared a rebel, and suffered forfeiture. In this connection there is record of the rents of certain lands, which may be enumerated to show the widespread possessions of the family. A letter under the Privy Seal assigned to Walter Wood of Balbirgenocht the rents of his lands of "Pitarrow, Easter Pitarrow, Wester Mill of Petreny, Pettingardnare, Little Carnebeg, Reidhall, Easter Wottown, Wester Wottown, Easter Balfour, Wester Balfour, Incheharbertt, Gallowhilton, and Crofts of Kincardine, with the lands of Glentanner and Braes of Mar." He took refuge in England, but soon returned; and after several years more of active life and checkered fortune, he died in 1576 without issue, and was succeeded by his nephew.

Sir John Wishart, the eldest son of James Wishart of Balfeith, succeeded his uncle, not only on the family estates, but to the large share which he had taken in

public matters. In a parliament held at Stirling in 1578, he was nominated one of the commissioners to examine the "Buik of the Policy of the Kirk," with a view to its ratification. He was one of those "that subscribed the band anent the religioun at Aberdeene" in 1592. His wife was Jean, daughter of William Douglas, ninth Earl of Angus. He died in 1607, having, in the words of an old author, lived to "a good age in good reputation." He was succeeded by his eldest son, who also had the honour of knighthood conferred on him.

Sir John Wishart gained distinction at the university, and gave early promise of regard for the purity of religion, of which his family had long been eminent upholders. His wife was daughter of Forrester of Carden, Stirlingshire. Two children were born of the marriage: a daughter, who married Sir David Lindsay of Edzell; and a son, named William or Walter, who predeceased his father, not without gaining the questionable distinction which has thus been recorded in the 'Domestic Annals of Scotland:' "17th June 1605. — Ane combat or tulyie [was] foughten at the Salt Tron of Edinburgh betwixt the Laird of Ogle [Edzell] younger and his complices, and the young Laird of Pitarrow, Wishart. The faught lasted frae 9 hours till 11 at night, twa hours. There were sundry hurt on both sides and ane Guthrie slain, which was Pitarrow's man, ane very pretty young man. The 18th they were accusit before the Council and wardit."

Prosperity did not long attend Sir John. His affairs became involved, and he went to Ireland, after disposing of his estates to a younger brother. His

good reputation was as short-lived as his fortune. The young man of promise became in his later years a kind of braggadocio. His character is said to have suggested to Sir Walter Scott that of the unamiable Captain Craigengelt in the 'Bride of Lammermoor.'

James Wishart, who had purchased the estates from his brother, was the last of the family and name to be in possession of them. They were sold, prior to 1631, to David, Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird, who paid for the different properties the sum of 59,000 merks, equivalent to £3277, 15s. 6⅔d. sterling.

The Wishart family are now represented by the children of the late Lady Clinton, only child of Sir John Hepburn Stuart Forbes, Bart. of Pitsligo and Fettercairn, who was descended from the house of Wishart by a female line.

Of the many distinguished members of the family, the one whose memory excites the strongest admiration is George, the youthful martyr, whose death may be regarded as the first effective blow to Papal supremacy in Scotland. It has been questioned if he was of the family of Pittarrow; and it has been attempted to show that he belonged to the house of Logie-Wishart, in Angus. The following circumstance, however, seems to put the claim of the Mearns branch of the family beyond a doubt. The 'Assertiones Theologicæ,' by John Gordon, afterwards Dean of Salisbury, was dedicated in 1603, within little more than half a century after the martyrdom, to John Wishart of Pittarrow, eldest son of Sir John, who, according to the accepted genealogy, was grand-nephew to the martyr. The concluding sentence of the dedicatory epistle is thus translated in Dr Rogers's

'Life of George Wishart:' "In the treasury of your heart cherish, I pray you, the memory of your great paternal uncle, George Wishart (memoriam Georgii Sophocardii patrui tui magni), who, after faithfully upholding the cause of Christian truth against false bishops, then all-powerful in Scotland, was betrayed to the flames, and who now rejoices in the bright presence of Christ, for the maintenance of whose glorious doctrines he gave up his life."

CHAPTER XII.

CONVETH MILL AND LANDS—(*continued*).

Families of Carnegie and Crombie.

David, Lord Carnegie, two years after the purchase of the property was created Earl of Southesk. In the meantime he had conferred the estate on his third son, Sir John Carnegie, the second son being then in possession of Craig, in Forfarshire. On the death of the eldest son, the next son, having become heir-apparent to the title and family estates, resigned possession of Craig, which passed into the hands of Sir John, who was thenceforth designated Sir John Carnegie of Craig. He died in 1654, and that branch of the family became extinct in a few years, at the death of his only son David. From Sir John the estate of Pittarrow was transferred to the fourth son, who also had the honour of knighthood conferred

upon him, and who may be regarded as the founder of the Pittarrow family. He was the brother-in-law of the Marquis of Montrose, whose wife was Magdalene, youngest daughter of David, Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird.

Sir Alexander Carnegie settled at Pittarrow about 1639, and resided there the next forty years. He married Margaret, sister of the first Viscount of Arbuthnott, and they had seven sons and three daughters. One of the sons was Sheriff-Depute of Forfarshire, and another minister of Farnell. Sir Alexander died in 1682, having previously disponed the family estate to his eldest son, reserving only a life-rent of part of the barony.

Sir David Carnegie had been created a baronet, while fiar of Pittarrow, for distinguished services rendered to the Crown. The patent is dated 1663, and "the illustrious merits and rare virtues of his lovit David Carnegie" must have commended themselves to King Charles when the subject was a very young man. Six years afterwards, the young baronet was put in virtual possession of the estate, which he continued to manage. He came into collision with his father in regard to the manor-place of Pittarrow, "Fuirdhouse" of Pittarrow, and Mill of Conveth, the houses of which Sir Alexander had failed to uphold according to obligation.

During the last decade of the seventeenth century the Mearns, like other places in Scotland, was liable to incursions at the instance of parties disaffected to the Government. Sir David Carnegie and Burnett of Glenbervie were commissioned, in 1690, to raise a hundred men for a month's service, to resist the

depredations of certain Highlanders. The heritors of the county were not very zealous on the defensive, and Sir David collected 400 men at his own charges, and marching with them dispersed the rebels at Cuttieshillock. The Highlanders retaliated with an army of 3000 men, and encamping at Pittarrow plundered the mansion, besides inflicting other injuries on the property of the baronet and his tenantry. He asked compensation from Government; but he was never fully recompensed for the damage which his spirited conduct had brought upon him.

Sir David was married three times, and had seventeen children, several of whom died in infancy. The burial-place of most of his family, as well as of his three wives, was in the parish church of Montrose. His first wife, who died in 1677, was a daughter of Sir Archibald Primrose, Lord Justice General. He married the dowager of the second Lord Arbuthnott in 1684, and made a goodly settlement in favour of that lady, "to witness to the world my love to and confidence in her." His love had declined, and his confidence waned, for he revoked the deed to a considerable extent—an unnecessary precaution, as the lady died in 1692, and he married Jean Burnett, daughter of the laird of Kair, a few years afterwards.

His eldest daughter became the wife of Henry Fletcher of Salton. The marriage was a happy one, though it had the disapproval of her father. She was the mother of Lord Milton, who rendered signal services to the country during and after the Rebellion of 1745, both in his legal capacity and as a civil administrator.

Sir David Carnegie adhered to the National Church, and was ordained an elder of the parish of Conveth in 1703. He died five years afterwards, being survived by Lady Carnegie until 1740, and predeceased by his three eldest sons, who all died without issue.

Sir John Carnegie, the second baronet, succeeded in 1708. He was the fourth son of the first marriage. In his youth he had been under the care of Gilbert Burnett, Bishop of Salisbury, who formed a high opinion of his pupil. For some years of his father's declining health John Carnegie had the chief management of the family estates. He was assigned the rents of the "Foordhouse" of Pittarrow, the Mill of Conveth, and the mill town and lands thereof, in 1701, to enable him to sustain his proper rank and position. When the estates of Kinnaird were forfeited by the fifth Earl of Southesk, for his share in the Rebellion of 1715, Sir John was appointed factor, and he managed them for many years.

It may be interesting to note that the jurisdiction of the barons was still in force in his time. They had the hereditary right, granted by the Crown, of exercising arbitrary power over vassals and other persons within their domain. They could fine, scourge, imprison, and even put to death, without appeal to common law. Those jurisdictions were abolished in 1747, when compensation, amounting to over £150,000, was paid by Government to the proprietors whose interests were affected by the abolition.

A volume of the Records of the Court of the Barony of Pittarrow is preserved at Kinnaird Castle.

Among other actions, it contains one for assault by David Hill in "Mindains" on Robert Orcheston in "Pitskallie." Hill confessed that he both bled and beat Orcheston, and a fine of £50 Scots was imposed. There is record of a baron court of the same year (1718), resulting from a riot between David Beattie in "Mindains" and two of "Pitskallie's" sons. These holdings, as well as Balfeith, were parts of the Pittarrow estate, and the lands and barony of Redhall were also acquired by Sir John. In 1712 he married Mary, second daughter of Sir Thomas Burnett of Leys, who was infefted in the liferent of Mains and Westerton of Pittarrow, and the Mill of Conveth and others.

Sir John Carnegie died suddenly in April 1729. While walking in his room he was seized with a faint or sickness, from which he never recovered. He was buried in the family vault at Fordoun, in presence of most of the gentlemen of the county. He had six sons and five daughters. Lady Carnegie survived her husband until 1754, and it is supposed that her remains were interred in the church of Montrose.

George Carnegie, the sixth son, will be noticed afterwards, as founder of a junior branch of the family, who acquired possession of Pittarrow and its pertinents.

Sir James Carnegie, the third baronet, succeeded his father in 1729, when he was thirteen years of age. The following year, the Earl of Southesk having died without male issue, he would have succeeded to the estates and earldom but for the forfeiture and attainder. Though inheriting considerable possessions, the finances of the youthful baronet were

at a low ebb. Portions to younger branches, and liabilities incurred in support of Government, had amassed a large debt; and his new position, as chief of the Carnegies, added nothing to his income. Lady Southesk offered to educate him; but, as her ladyship was as devout a believer in Jacobite principles as her late lord had been, his guardians declined the overture. They applied to Government, recalling the services of his ancestors, and urging the danger of a young man of his position being exposed to the influence of disaffected parties. He was then entered at Glasgow University, and put to board with Principal Campbell.

Under the guiding influence of Lord Milton his affairs began ere long to assume a promising aspect. He was a man of great energy, and his desire was to enter Parliament. As a means of recommending himself to public service, he went into the army about 1737. Four years after, he was elected Member of Parliament for Kincardineshire, and unanimously re-elected in 1747. But, though an active representative, he saw a good deal of service in his military capacity. He was in Flanders under the Duke of Cumberland, and at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745. The following year, under the same leader, he had the more painful task of fighting at Culloden. He continued to represent the county with much credit, and took a lively interest in all its affairs. When his "friend Frank Garden" was promoted to be Lord Gardenstone, he expressed great satisfaction, and used his influence in favour of his own kinsman, James Burnett, afterwards Lord Monboddo, for the sheriffdom of the county.

Sir James had first leased the estate of Kinnaird, which he purchased in 1764, at the upset price of £36,870, 14s. 2d. sterling. He resolved to sell the Pittarrow estates; but his death, which took place in 1765, left the sale to be carried out by his trustees. Lady Carnegie, who brought her husband a considerable fortune, was Christian, daughter of Doig of Cookston, Provost of Brechin. She survived until 1820, when she died at Montrose, at the age of ninety-one. They had a family of four sons and two daughters. The eldest son, who succeeded, was grandfather of the present Earl of Southesk, who has successfully established his claim to the title of his ancestors. That nobleman is the lineal representative of the baronets of Pittarrow; but, as the estate including Conveth passed to a junior branch of the family, it is unnecessary to follow the direct line farther.

George Carnegie, sixth son of the second baronet, was born in 1726, and baptized at Laurencekirk by Mr Taylor, of the Episcopal Church. He was apprenticed to a merchant; but, espousing the cause of rebellion, he accompanied the Prince to England, after the battle of Preston. He shared the defeat at Culloden, where his eldest brother was fighting on the opposite side. He escaped with difficulty, and wandered for a time among the hills with Carnegie of Balnamoon, whom he had occasionally to carry on his back. The two young men, along with a friend, succeeded at last in getting on board of a vessel bound for Sweden. Young Carnegie established a business at Gottenburg, which prospered so well that he returned to Scotland with a large fortune when not more than forty years of age. He purchased the

barony of Pittarrow in 1767, at the cost of £15,000; and he afterwards acquired Charleton, in the parish of Montrose, where he resided until his death in 1799.

His wife, Susan Scott, daughter of David Scott of Benholm, was distinguished for great literary taste and extreme benevolence. To her exertions mainly Montrose owed not only the Lunatic Asylum—the first institution of the kind in Scotland—but also possession of the first life-boat used in the country. Her life was full of good works; and one of her latest efforts was to stir the people of Montrose to the erection of a chapel of ease, supplementary to the parish church. She died at Charleton in 1821. In the 'History of the Carnegies,' published in 1867, there is reference to a daughter Anne, wife of Henry Gordon of Knockespock, as "a striking link of connection between the past and the present." Her father was at Culloden, and her grandfather was a pupil of Bishop Burnett, who was born in the reign of King Charles I.

John Carnegie, the eldest surviving son, succeeded his father. He married Mary Strachan, niece of Charles Fullerton of Kinnaber, in 1796, when he assumed the name of Fullerton and acquired the estate of Kinnaber. The old mansion at Pittarrow was demolished in 1802. Some interesting paintings, and an inscription in Latin verse, were found on the plaster in the great hall. Their existence was only then discovered, and there is reason to believe that they were executed by George Wishart, the martyr. The mansion has been described as "a fine specimen of an ancient baronial castle, which might have lasted for centuries to come, as it had lasted for

many bygone centuries." Mr Carnegie died at Edinburgh on Christmas-day 1805, and his wife the following year at Clifton.

George Fullerton Carnegie was next, and the last of his name, in possession of Conveth. He succeeded to Kinnaber and Charleton respectively on the deaths of his mother and grandmother. Though endowed with literary ability, which appeared in various poetical productions, he was led into extravagant expenditure through associating with young sportsmen possessed of greater wealth than prudence. His estates had to be disposed of, and Pittarrow and Conveth passed into other hands in 1831. He died at Montrose twenty years after.

Alexander Crombie, who acquired the Mill and lands of Conveth in 1831, was laird of Phesdo and Thornton, and an advocate in Aberdeen. He died in 1832, aged sixty-six years; and it is recorded on a monument erected to his memory in the church of Fordoun, that the poor of that parish lost in him a most generous benefactor. Dr Alexander Crombie, of London, a cousin-german of the deceased proprietor, succeeded him in possession of the estates. He was the author of 'The Gymnasium,' long a standard work in schools, greatly prized by the classical student. He died in 1840, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

Alexander Crombie, of Lincoln's Inn, London, barrister-at-law, died in 1877, at the age of eighty-two.

Alexander Crombie, the present proprietor, succeeded on the death of his father. He had been admitted into the Society of Writers to her Majesty's Signet in 1861.

CHAPTER XIII.

REDMYRE.

From the earliest writs in possession of the proprietor, it appears that Redmyre was one of the numerous estates belonging to the Keiths-Marischal, and that it passed from their hands to the possession of the Irvines of Drum. Various estates in the neighbourhood belonged to cadets of this ancient family. Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum about the middle of the sixteenth century married Lady Elizabeth Keith, a daughter of the fourth Earl, and sister of Lady Beatrix, who became the wife of Allardice of Powburn. It may have been through this union that Redmyre was acquired; and a right of superiority seems to have been retained long after it came into possession of the Stuarts of Inchbreck. That right must have been conveyed in some way to the proprietor of Auchlunies, an estate in the parish of Maryculter, as is indicated by a charter of confirmation by Theophilus Ogilvie of Auchlunies, dated the 19th day of May 1806, and another of confirmation and novodamus by Alexander Gordon of Auchlunies, dated the 23d July 1817.

The first of the Drum family whose name is identified with the estate is Alexander Irvine, who died before 18th March 1632. A retour of that date gives "Dominus Alexander Irwing" as heir of his father, Alexander, in "terris de Quhytrigs et Reidmyre." Sir Alexander had retained possession until

his death; and in a retour of 5th May 1658, there is mention of "Alexander Irwing of Drum, heir-maill of Alexander Irwing of Drum, Knight, his father, in the lands of Whytrygs and Reidmyre." It was probably this Alexander who disposed of the estate to one of the family of Stuarts.

It has been said, however, that the Stuarts of Inchbreck acquired possession of Redmyre by marriage, though the time of its coming into their hands is not known. According to Mr Jervise, the first Stuart of Inchbreck was a younger son of a laird of Johnston, who was a lineal descendant of the old family of the Stuarts of Morphie. David Stuart fought at the battle of Pinkie, and was of invaluable service to Sir Archibald Douglas when he lay wounded upon the field. For his attention to the knight, he was rewarded with a gift of Inchbreck, which had been part of the barony of Glenbervie. He continued to distinguish himself as a soldier, and was with Queen Mary's forces at the battle of Corrichie, where, it is alleged, he killed the Earl of Huntly with his own hand, a feat celebrated in the lines of the old ballad:

> "The Murray cried, 'Tak' the auld Gordoun,'
> An' mony ane ran wi' speid,
> But Stuart o' Inchbraick had him stickit,
> And out gushit this fat lurdanes bleid."

His immediate successors on Inchbreck were John, Robert, and David, whose name is the first to be identified with the estate of Redmyre.

There was a disposition of the lands of Redmyre, by George, Earl Marischal, to David Stuart of Inchbreck in liferent, and his son William in fee. This was dated 21st January 1686; but there is evi-

dence that he was in possession of the estate some years before that date. The tombstone noticed elsewhere was doubtless erected by him, and the first death recorded upon it took place in 1671. Though there is no trace now of a mansion-house, there is other evidence to show that David Stuart and one or more of his successors were resident. On the 10th July 1683, a visitation of the kirk of Conveth was made by the Presbytery of the Mearns, according to the instructions of "James, by Divine Providence Archbishop of St Andrews," and the heritors present were "Alexander, Lord Halkertoun, the Laird of Johnstone, and David Stewart of Reidmyre."

David Stuart died towards the close of the century, and there is a charter of resignation by Alexander Irvine of Drum, the immediate lawful superior, in favour of William Stuart of Inchbreck, of the lands of Redmyre, dated 7th January 1699. The Stuarts for several generations showed a martial spirit, and one of the most distinguished soldiers of the family was a younger son of this laird, Captain James Stuart, who, after serving in Holland, enlisted in the cause of the Pretender under Lord Ogilvy, and thus shared the dangers and disappointments of the memorable '45. He was present at Culloden; and, after undergoing many privations, he succeeded in making his escape to France, where he died in 1776, having previously been created a Knight of St Louis.

William Stuart was followed in possession of the estate by his eldest son, John Stuart of Inchbreck, in whose favour there is a precept of *clare constat* by Alexander Ramsay Irvine of Saphock (Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain?), infefting him in the lands

of Redmyre, dated 14th July 1749. He was a Doctor of Medicine. Dr Stuart died in 1792, aged eighty-two years. A younger son, John, who was an able writer and a devoted antiquary, was appointed Professor of Greek in Marischal College in 1782, and occupied the chair pertaining to that office for nearly forty years. He purchased the patrimonial estate of Inchbreck from his nephew, and was the grandfather of the present laird, Alexander Stuart of Inchbreck and Laithers, who in 1864 married Hon. Clementina Arbuthnott, elder daughter of Viscount Arbuthnott.

Dr David Stuart, eldest son, in 1775 married Jean Innes, daughter of Alexander Innes of Clerkseat, Advocate, and in the contract of marriage his father disponed to him and his heirs the lands of Redmyre. He predeceased his father, and was succeeded by his son.

In February 1800, John Stuart, designated of Castleton, Writer to the Signet, was served heir of provision to his father, Dr David Stuart, and in 1806 he disposed of the lands of Redmyre, granting along with the property "the right, liberty, and privilege to the tenants thereof of casting, winning, and leading peats and sods in and from the Hill Moss of Inchbreck."

The purchaser of Redmyre was James Allardyce, Collector of the Customs at Aberdeen, and the estate continued in his possession until his death, which took place before the 13th day of March 1811, his deed of settlement having been recorded on that day at Aberdeen. It conveyed the lands of Redmyre to trustees, in favour of his children, Alexander, William,

George, Janet, Jane, and Catherine. The two eldest, being wine-merchants in Aberdeen, having disposed of their interest in the estate, the *pro indiviso* proprietors of Redmyre were George, Janet, Jane, and Catherine Allardyce. Janet having died before 19th April 1822, the survivors continued in joint possession until December 1853, when the lands were disponed to the present proprietor.

David Johnston, A.M., M.D., at the time of his acquiring the lands of Redmyre, was a medical practitioner in Montrose. His wife, Eliza Barclay, is younger daughter of Charles E. Barclay, at Newton, and a descendant in the direct line of the ancient Berkeleys.

Dr Johnston is a native of Fordoun. His maternal ancestors for successive generations were tenants of the farm of Cairnbeg, and nearly related to many of the parishioners of Laurencekirk.

John Milne, born in 1728, is the first representative of the family of whom there is certain information. He was probably the nephew of James Milne, schoolmaster, who is understood to have belonged to the family. A brother, Alexander Milne, was schoolmaster of Fordoun. He died in 1812; and his son, also named Alexander, was local factor on Fetteresso, and farmer at Blairs. John Milne was twice married: first to a Watson of Scotston, who was a cousin of Dr Beattie; and next to his cousin Isobel Milne, daughter of the schoolmaster at Laurencekirk, another of whose daughters, Elizabeth Milne, became the wife of the schoolmaster of Fordoun, while a third daughter was married to David Beattie, Lord Gardenstone's factor, and father of Professor Beattie. A son of the schoolmaster was innkeeper at Lau-

rencekirk, and there is reason to believe that he also married a cousin from Cairnbeg. Another member of one of the families is known to have been tacksman of the Mill Inn, Stonehaven.

John Milne had two sons and a daughter. David, the elder son, probably by the first marriage, died at West Cairnbeg in 1837, aged seventy-eight years. Alexander, farmer at Mill of Kincardine, died in 1807, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

William Johnston, through his marriage with Jean Milne, acquired possession of the lease, and was for many years a well-known agriculturist. He was a native of the county of Fife. William Johnston, his son, was farmer, first at Mill of Kincardine, and afterwards of Cairnbeg. He died some years ago, and was succeeded by his son in occupation of the lands which have been held by many generations of his ancestors.

David Johnston, son of William Johnston and Jean Milne, graduated at the University of Aberdeen. He had for many years an extensive practice in Montrose, from which he retired on purchasing the estate of Kair, on which he resides.

CHAPTER XIV.

BARONY OF JOHNSTON.

Original Estate.

The barony of Johnston, as erected by charter to Lord Gardenstone in 1779, consisted of the lands of

Johnston as originally constituted; the Hill of Johnston, or Falconleys; the lands of Easter and Wester Unthanks, and Easter and Wester Clattowns; the lands of Blackcockmuir, the mill-lands and adjoining pendicles then called the Haugh; and the acres, houses, &c., of Kirktown of Conveth. Johnston and Falconleys had at one time formed part of the barony of Garvock. The Unthanks and Clattons had been included in the barony of Newton. Blackiemuir at a very early date belonged to the Priory of St Andrews; while the Haugh probably, and the Kirkton certainly, were constituent parts of the Westerton of Conveth owned by the Berkeleys.

The first known possessors of the estate of Johnston were the Frasers, a family of renown from an early period in Scottish history. In the reign of David I. (1124-53), the district of Keith, in East Lothian, formed two divisions: one called Keith Hervei, afterwards Keith Marischal, which was owned by Herveus, who was then the head of the Keith family; and the other Keith Symon, afterwards Keith Hundeby, which was possessed by Simon Fraser. Philip de Keith, the grandson of Herveus, married the granddaughter of Simon Fraser, and in consequence of this union became proprietor of the whole district of Keith. Their grandson, Sir John de Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, confirmed to the Hospital of Soltray the gift of lands of Joneston, or Johnston, near Keith, which had been made by his great-great-grandfather, Simon Fraser. When the possessions of the families extended to these parts, it is probable that the lands of Johnston derived their name from the property thus piously devoted by their joint ancestor.

The first of the family whose name is identified with the estate is Sir Alexander Fraser, the stanch friend and brother-in-law of King Robert I. He was with the Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn and in many other engagements. His signature is attached to the letter to the Pope in 1320 asserting the independence of Scotland. In 1325 he was appointed Great Chamberlain of Scotland, and held the office until the king's death, which took place in 1329. Three years afterwards he fell at the battle of Duplin, valiantly fighting for his king and country. His wife was Lady Mary Bruce, second daughter of the Earl of Carrick, a sister of King Robert I., who had previously been married to Sir Niel Campbell of Lochow. During the English invasion she was taken prisoner and confined in the Castle of Roxburgh, from which she regained her liberty, by order of the English king, in exchange for Walter Comyn, a prisoner of the Scots. She died before the year 1324, when a charter was granted by the king "to Alexander Fraser, Knight, of six acres of arable land lying in the tenement of Achincarny, adjacent to our manor of Kincardine, to be held by the said Alexander, and the heirs legitimately procreated betwixt him and the deceased Mary Bruce his wife, our beloved sister, *in unum liberum hostilagium*"—*i.e.*, for a place of free entertainment. Sir Alexander's services had been rewarded with many gifts of land in the counties of Kincardine, Aberdeen, and Stirling. Among those in Kincardineshire were the lands of Garuocis, which included Johnston.

Sir Alexander had two sons, John and William, the younger of whom was the progenitor of the noble

family of Saltoun. The eldest son, who had a charter of the thanedom of Aberbothnot, predeceased his father, leaving an only child, Margaret Fraser. Among the many possessions which she inherited from her father and grandfather were the lands of Johnston.

Margaret Fraser was married to Sir William Keith, the founder of Dunnottar Castle, who was the first Keith-Marischal in possession of Johnston. Their family consisted of three sons, John, Robert, and Alexander, and four daughters, Muriella, Janet, Christian, and Elizabeth. Alexander was a distinguished soldier, and had command of the horse at the battle of Harlaw, against Donald, Lord of the Isles, in 1411. Muriella became the wife of Robert, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, and one of her sons was Earl of Buchan, Constable of France. Janet was married to Philip Arbuthnott of Arbuthnott; Christian to Sir James Lindsay, who was succeeded by his cousin, the first Earl of Crawford; and Elizabeth to Sir Adam Gordon of Huntly.

Sir William Keith and Margaret Fraser, reserving their own liferent, resigned all their possessions to their eldest son, John de Keith. The charter is dated 17th January 1373-74, and it was on the occasion of his marriage to a daughter of King Robert II. He died not long afterwards, leaving an only son, Robert de Keith.

Wyntoun, the chronicler, narrates a conflict in which this Robert, "a mighty man by lineage and apparent to a lord of might of many lands," was engaged. In 1395 a quarrel had arisen between him and his aunt Christian, who was residing in the Castle of Fyvie in her husband's absence. The

ungallant youth laid siege to the castle, of which his aunt was chief in command. The news having come to the ears of her lord, he hastened northwards with a band of four hundred men. When on the way to his wife's relief, Sir James met the nephew and his followers near the Kirk of Bourty, and after a fierce engagement put them to rout, with a loss of fifty of their men. Robert Keith did not long survive this incident, having died before his grandfather, leaving an only daughter.

The eldest son and his heir having both predeceased him, Sir William Keith was succeeded at his death, which happened between 1406 and 1408, by his second son, Sir Robert Keith, the second of the family in actual possession of the lands of Johnston. In the lifetime of his elder brother he had married the heiress, and obtained possession of the barony, of Troup, which continued in the family for several generations. It is interesting to find that the two properties, with which Lord Gardenstone's name is chiefly associated, were for centuries the joint possession of so distinguished a family. Robert Keith was Sheriff of Kincardineshire and Great Marischal of Scotland. When King James I. was a prisoner in 1421, Sir Robert was one of the commissioners sent to treat for his liberation, and he was retained as a hostage for the king's ransom. His second wife was Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, daughter of the first Earl of Crawford, who had acquired possession of the lands of Blackiemuir in 1390. This is the first occasion on which any notice of these lands is found, and what relates to them may be introduced here.

BLACKIEMUIR.

The first Earl of Crawford was Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk and Crawford. His wife was Catherine, fifth daughter of King Robert II., a sister of the lady who had been married to John Keith, the heir-apparent of Sir William Keith and Margaret Fraser. It is not unlikely that Sir David had acquired possession of Blackiemuir through this marriage,—the Lindsay property, though widely spread in the neighbouring county of Forfar, not having extended in any other instance to the Mearns. Its detached situation and immediate proximity to Johnston would have made it a fitting gift to his daughter on her marriage with Sir Robert Keith. An incident in his life, which took place the same year as he acquired Blackiemuir, may be related briefly.

Lord Welles, an ambassador from England, at a banquet where deeds of arms were being spoken of, gave a kind of challenge implying the greater valour of his countrymen, and Sir David Lindsay immediately took it up. London Bridge was fixed for the place of combat; and thither Lindsay, having received the necessary passport, repaired with a gallant train of thirty men, and duly appeared in the lists against the English noble. The combat is thus shortly described: "At the sound of trumpet they encountered each other upon their barbed horses with square grounden spears. In this adventure Lindsay sat so strong that, notwithstanding Lord Welles's spear was broken upon his helmet and visage, he stirred not; insomuch that the spectators cried out that, contrary to

the law of arms, he was bound to the saddle. Whereupon he dismounted, got on his horse again without assistance, and in the third course threw Lord Welles out of his saddle to the ground. Then dismounting he supported his adversary, and with great humanity visited him every day till he recovered the effects of his fall."

Sir David was raised to the peerage in 1398, probably while he was still a proprietor in the parish of Conveth. The Earl of Crawford died early in the fifteenth century; and the connection of the family with the parish must have been so brief and of little account that it is unnecessary to pursue its history further.

There has been nothing discovered of the proprietorship of Blackiemuir during the next two centuries. It appears, in a retour of 20th January 1608, that Andrew Moncur of Slains had succeeded before that date "terris de Blaccokmuir et Kirkburn in baronia de Rescobie et regalitate Sancti Andreæ." His family was a cadet of Moncur of Moncur in Perthshire. It is not improbable that Blackiemuir and Kirkburn had formed part of the possessions of Barclay of Mathers, along with Wester Conveth, and been acquired from the representative of that family. The wife of Harry Barclay of Johnston was a daughter of Moncur of Slains, and probably a sister of Andrew Moncur. There is no evidence, however, that the lands were added to the estate of Johnston through that union; and they do not appear in a retour of 1666, in which the lands constituting Johnston are enumerated.

Returning to Johnston proper, Sir Robert Keith was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir William Keith,

who was created Earl Marischal. Among the charters granted to him was one of the barony of Garvock. He died before the year 1476; and, his eldest son having died in 1446, he was succeeded by his next son, William, second Earl Marischal, who survived him only a few years. William, third Earl Marischal, had a charter in his favour of the lands of Johnston, dated 2d February 1506. His eldest son, Robert, Lord Keith, fell at the battle of Flodden, 9th September 1513, and the standard which he carried in that battle is now in the Advocates Library. The third Earl died about 1530, and was succeeded by his grandson, William, fourth Earl Marischal, who as heir-apparent had obtained a charter of the lands of Johnston 22d April 1525. He was the last of the family in possession of the estate.

According to Mr Jervise, a branch of the family of Stuart of Morphie had possession of Johnston about the middle of the sixteenth century. If the statement is correct, their connection with the estate must have been of short duration; and for the next two centuries the lands were held by descendants of the race of De Berkeley.

CHAPTER XV.

BARCLAYS OF JOHNSTON.

John Barclay, the son of David Barclay, the ninth laird of Mathers, and his second wife, Catherine Home,

was the first of the family in possession of Johnston. The estate was purchased for him by his father about the middle of the sixteenth century. He married a daughter of the laird of Thornton, probably a sister of Catherine Strathauchin, who was the wife of John Middleton of Kilnhill.

Harry Barclay, their son, was the next proprietor. His wife was a daughter of Moncur of Slains, whose family was a cadet of the Moncurs of that Ilk, and closely related to the noble families of Gray and Kinnaird.

He was succeeded by his son, John Barclay, who is known to have been laird of Johnston in 1632. That year he acquired possession of the lands of Burnton, which continued in the family until 1670, when they were disponed to David Falconer of Newton. John Barclay is said to have married a daughter of Kinner of that Ilk, supposed to be Kinnaber. On various grounds it is more probable that the lady was a daughter of Patrick Kinnaird of Kinnaird and Inchture, grandfather of the first Lord Kinnaird, in which case she had been nearly related to the Lady Haulkerton of the period, and perhaps to Mr Gray, the minister of the parish. He died before 1642 (probably in 1637), and was succeeded by his eldest son David.

A younger son of John, also named John Barclay, graduated at St Andrews University in 1622, and eleven years after became minister of the parish of Kinnaird in Perthshire. During his incumbency there, he "took journey towards England, 5th July 1644, be the direction and ordinance of the Presb. and Committee of Division, to preach to my Lord

Couper's regiment, then lyand at York, and returned 21st September thereafter from the army lyand at Newcastle." He was translated to Monifieth in 1649, and within the church of that parish he took the oath of allegiance to Charles II. He was twice married—the second time in 1640—and had seven sons and six daughters. Yet the following couplet was inscribed on his monument—

> "Barclaium forsan culpas de cælibe vitâ,
> Falleris; uxores duxerat ille novem:"

which has been translated—

> "Of Barclay's single life if you complain,
> You err; he had for wife the muses nine."

The minister of Monifieth died in 1675. He bequeathed the half of his books to his eldest son John, who followed his father's profession, and the other half equally between the next two sons; while his widow, Grissel Fotheringham, and all his children, were ordained to follow her kinsman the laird of Powrie's advice. Her peculiar name, and her husband's other relations with the Durham family, suggest that Grissel Fotheringham may have been a near relative, perhaps the daughter, of Fotheringham of Ballindrone and Grissel Durham, afterwards Countess of Middleton.

The name of Henry Barclay, who may have been another son of this laird, appears in the history of General Middleton's campaign. When Middleton was in the north (November 1646), contending with Lord Huntly after the capitulation of the Marquis of Montrose, he applied to the Estates for more forces, and Henry Barclay's regiment and another were sent to his aid. The following year, when the greater part

of the army was disbanded, one of the "rout masters" retained was Henry Barclay, and another the laird of Thornton, a cousin of the General.

David Barclay, the eldest son, succeeded to possession of the estate. A stone in the courtyard at Johnston Lodge bears the initials D. B. and E. D., along with the date 1642. They are the initials of David Barclay and Elizabeth Durham, and the date was probably that of the erection of the old mansion from which the stone was taken, and which had been built shortly after he became laird. His wife is described as a daughter of the laird of Grange or Monifieth. The Durhams of Grange were long a family of great influence; but the main line had previously failed, and the representative then was Durham of Pitkerrow. Elizabeth was daughter of Sir James Durham of Pitkerrow, who was a stanch Royalist, in high office under Charles I., and knighted after the Restoration by Charles II. She was a sister of the Countess of Middleton.

In Douglas's 'Peerage' the Hon. Charles Erskine, an ancestor of the Earls of Kellie, is represented as having married a Miss Barclay about 1664. The lady is designated of London; but as her husband was a follower of the Earl of Middleton, whose family is known to have been in London about the time, it is not unlikely that she was a daughter of David Barclay, and niece of the Countess. The Barclays of London, the distinguished bankers and brewers, were not established until long after the date mentioned.

David Barclay died before 1647, and was succeeded by his son, John Barclay. In the charter for

the burgh there is reference to a contract respecting dues to the minister of Garvock, between John Barclay of Johnston, and William, formerly Earl Marischal, made on the 24th November 1647. In a letter, of date 5th October 1660, he wrote, "The Earle of Northesk and my uncle Cadam have now ended their differences." The late Mr Jervise found in these words confirmation of a mistake, into which he had otherwise fallen, that a branch of the Barclays were then in possession of Caldhame. The reference is clearly to the Earl of Middleton. "My uncle Cadam" was a familiar expression likely to be used, more especially as the title had been patented only four days. He had been created Earl four years before; but it was abroad, in the court of the exiled king. At home he had been known only as Middleton of Caldhame. The Earl of Northesk, with whom the differences had existed, had previously acquired the Rosehill property, which had belonged to the Middletons, and some dispute probably had arisen between the two in the course of its transference. He was brother of the first Earl of Southesk—who had purchased Pittarrow—and as keen a Royalist as Middleton himself. By Cromwell's act of pardon and grace, in 1654, a fine had been imposed upon him of £6000 sterling—an enormous sum in those days.

John Barclay's wife was Mary Young, daughter of the laird of Auldbar; and it may have been to the influence acquired by this connection that Laurencekirk is indebted for the distinction of being the parish in which the illustrious Ruddiman's whole career as a schoolmaster was passed.

It was during the tenure of this laird that the lands of Burnton went from the possession of the family. In 1666 he disponed them to another Barclay, probably his eldest son, and four years later they were finally disposed of by father and son together.

David Barclay, a younger brother, was the founder of the Balmakewan branch of the family. The estate was in their possession in 1653. His son and successor, William Barclay, obtained a coat of arms in 1679, which was afterwards in possession of the family at Johnston, and presented by one of its last members to a descendant of the Newton family. A strong intimacy subsisted between the Balmakewan and Newton Barclays, as appears from the Marykirk register of baptisms, at which representatives of both families were present. The Barclays of Balmakewan are now represented by the laird of Morphie, the name having been exchanged for Graham on succession to that estate of William Barclay, the laird of Balmakewan, as heir to his cousin, Captain Francis Graham.

Peter Barclay, eldest son of John Barclay and Mary Young, was the next proprietor of Johnston. His wife was Elizabeth Gardyne, daughter of Robert Gardyne of Lawton, who had previously been married to Scott of Hedderwick. Her father was one of a family of twenty-four children (four sons and twenty daughters) born of the same parents, John Gardyne and Elizabeth Arbuthnott. A stone lintel over the front door of the Gardenstone Arms bears the initials P. B. and the date 1658. If they refer to this laird, the date given is probably the year of his birth. The stone may originally have belonged to another build-

ing; but, whether or not, the inscription referred to a date many years prior to his succession to the estate.

There was a dispute of some years' standing between Peter Barclay and the kirk-session respecting two Sacramental cups. A minute of 14th November 1703, bears that "the laird of Johnston having delivered up the two silver cups before the Communion was celebrat, and desiring a receipt of the same from the session, the same was this day granted." Some years afterwards, the laird seemed resolved on retaining possession of the cups; and Alexander Cowie, an elder, was commissioned in 1713 to go to Montrose, where the family were residing, and demand their delivery. His report was that, having gone to Montrose, he found that the laird had gone abroad, and the lady knew nothing of them. They were afterwards surrendered, and the altercation took end. It may be conjectured that the troublesome Mr Dunbar, ejected minister, was at the bottom of the affair. From their family connections, it may be inferred that the Barclays of Johnston had been strong adherents of the Stewart race. The near relative of the present laird, Young of Auldbar, was one of the hottest of the rebels in Angus; and though Mr Barclay's name is not specified, it may be presumed that he was not far from the thoughts of the minister of the parish when he afterwards wrote of the "heart friends to the Pretender's interests."

He was succeeded by his son, who also was named Peter Barclay. His wife was Eupham Wood, daughter of the laird of Drumnagair. Her mother was Elizabeth, daughter of William Barclay of Balmakewan,

who in 1690 was married to John Allardice of Allardice. Her husband having died within a few weeks of their marriage, she became the wife of Wood of Drumnagair, and her daughter was married to the laird of Johnston in 1735.

The Drumnagair family, in whose possession also was the estate of Davo, was a branch of the Woods of Balbegno, who, with the Woods of Bonniton, were descended from an old Aberdeenshire family, Wood of Colpnay. For a considerable period both branches of the family exercised no small influence in the county; but they had been much reduced before this lady's time, and may now be regarded as extinct. The last of the Bonniton family was Sir James Wood, who was residing at Idvies in 1728; and probably the last of the other branch was the possessor of Davo, whose inheritance was the subject of a famous legal contention which lasted for several years.

The family at Johnston consisted of a son named William, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Helen, and Mary. Prosperity had not attended the laird, and before his death his affairs were greatly embarrassed. In 1759 he made a disposition of his estate to his son, subject to provisions for his daughters Helen and Mary, but excluding from any share his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, "espoused to David Walker, at Dunsmilne." He died shortly afterwards, and William Barclay disposed of the property to Lord Gardenstone, who was one of his curators.

CHAPTER XVI.

JOHNSTON—(*continued*).

Lord Gardenstone.

Francis Garden, second son of the laird of Troup, in Banffshire, was born in 1721. Having chosen the profession of an advocate, he was admitted as a member of the Faculty of Advocates on the 14th July 1744. In early life he partook freely of the pleasures for which so many of the most distinguished of his professional brethren were noted. In 1745, when so many loyal subjects were in arms for the suppression of disloyalty, he became a volunteer; and, in company with another gentleman, he was sent by Sir John Cope to reconnoitre the Highland army, on its way from Dunbar. Near Musselburgh the two martial youths were tempted, by the recollection of "jolly" days spent in a house in the neighbourhood, to divert a little from the course, and regale themselves with oysters and sherry. The indulgence speedily banished all thought of military duty, and ended in their being taken prisoners by a single Highland recruit, who had no little difficulty in marching them off to the rebel army—not, however, because of any heroism on their part. They were in some risk of being hanged as spies, a motion to that effect having been made by John Roy Stuart; but the plea "drunk and incapable" tarnished their military glory, saved their lives, and liberated them on parole.

The young advocate soon threw off these early habits of excess, and settled into the grave philanthropy which chiefly characterised his subsequent life. His abilities were of a high order, though there was a large measure of eccentricity in his conduct. In due course he received the appointment of Sheriff of Kincardineshire; and he took up his abode at Woodstock, in the parish of Fordoun. On the 3d July 1764, he was promoted to the Bench under the title of Lord Gardenstone, and creditably performed the duties of that high office.

For many years he was one of the undoubted "characters" of Edinburgh, and as such received a place among the famous Kay's portraits. He is represented riding on an old horse, with a dog in front, and a boy dressed in a kilt running behind. The detailed account of the portrait is given thus: "Kay has endeavoured to represent him as, what he really was, a very timid horseman, mounted, moreover, on a jaded old hack, which he had selected for its want of spirit, preceded by his favourite dog Smash, and followed by a Highland boy, whose duty was to take charge of his Rosinante on arriving at the Parliament House."

His lordship's relations to the parish and burgh of Laurencekirk need not be entered upon here, as they will be more fitly taken up at another place. As landlord of Johnston he spared no effort for the improvement of his property and the wellbeing of his tenants and retainers. He was a close observer of men and things, and a profuse journalist of his observations. A large folio manuscript, consisting of many pages, is in possession of Mr Pearson, which of

itself would furnish matter for an interesting volume. It seems to have been the medium through which his orders were conveyed to his resident factor, and the various heads of departments on the estate. The most trivial instructions are mixed up with somewhat elaborate treatises on various subjects connected with agriculture, gardening, and forestry, which had come under his observation at home or elsewhere. But everything recorded was intended for special use; and repeated counsels are given to the various servants to see that none of his lordship's recommendations are neglected. At the death of his brother, Lord Gardenstone succeeded to the family estate of Troup, in 1785, when he generously remitted to all the tenants the debt due to him as his brother's heir. Soon after, he went on a tour to the Continent, during which he spent three years, visiting France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. On his return he was elected Rector of Marischal College, and held that office for the years 1788-89. He afterwards published, in two volumes, 'Travelling Memorandum made in a Tour upon the Continent of Europe in 1792.' A third volume was published after his death; and he had previously published another work, 'Miscellanies in Prose and Verse,' which were partly his own composition, and partly that of early friends.

His lordship's attire was usually of the plainest description; and there is a story related of him which arose from this habit. On a journey from London he was outside passenger on a coach in the inside of which there were some "young bucks." At the end of a certain stage they took breakfast, the outside traveller being shown into an inferior room.

The young gentlemen in the best apartment, being seated for breakfast, received a civil request through the waiter that they would allow their fellow-passenger to join them. A haughty reply was given that they were not in the habit of keeping company with outside passengers. His lordship then ordered a *magnum bonum* of claret, which he shared with the landlord, giving instructions for a postchaise-and-four to be put in readiness for him in the meantime. The landlord at the end of the next stage, who knew Lord Gardenstone, received him with all the respect due to his rank; and, by a previous arrangement with the driver, he had timed his journey so that the gentle youths were eyewitnesses of his reception. As might have been expected, when the tables were thus turned, the pretentious "bucks" developed into fawning suppliants. A polite note was addressed to his lordship, craving forgiveness, and requesting the honour of his company at dinner. But to the note the only reply vouchsafed was a verbal message, that "he kept no company with people whose pride would not permit them to use their fellow-travellers with civility."

His lordship's eccentricity assumed the still stranger form of a strong affection for pigs. To one he was so much attached that he allowed it to share his bed; and, when good feeding and rapid growth made it too cumbersome a bedfellow, it was still lodged in comfortable quarters in the apartment. During the daytime it followed him about like a dog. David Cowie, Mains of Haulkerton, had occasion to see his lordship one morning, and was shown into his bedroom. He stumbled in the dark upon some object, from which a

loud grunt proceeded, followed by another voice from the direction of the bed, "It is just a bit sow, poor beast, and I laid my breeches on it to keep it warm all night."

Lord Gardenstone's benefactions were not confined to his own property. It is recorded that one of the last acts of his generosity was the erection of an ornamental building round the mineral well of St Bernard's, near Edinburgh.

His lordship died at Morningside on the 22d July 1793, in the seventy-second year of his age, and his remains were laid within the family burial-place at the old Kirk of Gamrie.

Peter Garden of Dalgaty was the younger brother of Lord Gardenstone. Katherine Balneaves, his wife, through her mother was heiress of Campbell of Glenlyon, and the family assumed the name of Garden-Campbell. Peter Garden died in 1785, and his son succeeded Lord Gardenstone in the Troup and other estates. In 1794 the burgh council offered a guinea to any recruit enlisted in Laurencekirk by Major Garden for Colonel Hay's or Aberdeenshire Regiment. Soon after, he was promoted to a colonelcy; and, early in the century, he disposed of the estate of Johnston, as well as that of Thornton, which Lord Gardenstone had acquired in 1786 by purchase from the last of the Fullertons who owned it.

CHAPTER XVII.

JOHNSTON—(*continued*).

Johnston became the property of James Farquhar, M.P., in 1805. He was born in Aberdeen on the 1st August 1764, and was the second son of John Farquhar—senior partner of Farquhar & Hadden, stocking manufacturers in that city—and his wife, Rachel Young, who also belonged to Aberdeen. Mr Farquhar was a successful merchant for many years in London. On the 19th May 1795, he married Helen Innes, born 23d July 1771, one of the eight daughters of Alexander Innes of Breda and Cowie, Commissary of Aberdeen, who belonged to an old family, Innes of Edingicht.

In 1801, Mr Farquhar was returned to represent in Parliament the united burghs of Aberdeen, Arbroath, Bervie, Brechin, and Montrose; and he continued their representative until 1818, when he retired for a time from political life. In 1824 he was elected member for Portarlington, Queen's County, Ireland; and he continued its representative until the end of his parliamentary career in 1830. He was appointed in 1810 to the lucrative office of Deputy-Registrar of the English High Court of Admiralty; and he retained that position during the remainder of his life.

Shortly after the purchase of Johnston, Mr Farquhar erected the present mansion-house, which was his summer residence for many years. In 1806 he

acquired by purchase the estate of Hallgreen, in the parish of Bervie, and was followed in its possession by his nephew, James Farquhar, father of the present laird. Though a man of great generosity, and a liberal benefactor of the poor, Mr Farquhar was characterised by strict and careful habits in all his transactions. An anecdote has been told in illustration of these points of his character. When a coachman he had engaged in London was rendering his first weekly account, it was twopence short of balancing, and he taxed his memory in vain to account for the deficit. Somewhat to his surprise, the matter was remanded for next week's consideration, and he was told to find out the mistake if he could. He spent the next day or two puzzling his mind over the lost twopence, and what appeared to him the excessive strictness of his master. Before the close of the week he had occasion to be driving through a turnpike, the toll of which was twopence, and it suddenly occurred to him that the previous week he had the same transaction, which he had failed to enter into his account. In due time the explanation was made, his conduct approved, and his second week's account found correct, when a handsome gratuity was put into his hands, as a token of his master's satisfaction with his fortnight's services, but along with it a caution to be strictly careful of every penny he disbursed. He continued many years in Mr Farquhar's service, and used to relate the anecdote with the assurance that it was one of the best lessons he had ever been taught.

Mr Farquhar died at his residence in Westminster on 4th September 1833; and he was buried within the Church of St Bennett's, Doctors' Commons, Lon-

don. The poor of Laurencekirk were not forgotten in his settlement, a sum of £500 being bequeathed to the kirk-session on their behalf.

Mrs Farquhar continued for a number of years to occupy Johnston Lodge as her residence during part of the year. On one day, above all days in the year, her presence was a source of pleasure to the youth of Laurencekirk. It was the annual examination of the parish school, when it always seemed an open question whether she enjoyed herself or imparted to others the most exquisite delight, in the variety of prizes which passed from her hands to the successful competitors of the day. Mrs Farquhar removed from Johnston about 1845 to Aberdeen, where she resided until the time of her death.

Alexander Gibbon, advocate in Aberdeen, succeeded to the possession of Johnston on the death of his uncle, Mr Farquhar. He was the only son of Captain Charles Gibbon, merchant burgess of Aberdeen, and his second wife, Rachel Susan Farquhar. He studied at Marischal College, and became a graduate of the University. Having qualified for the legal profession, he was admitted into the Society of Advocates of Aberdeen in 1817, and was for a number of years in practice in the city.

Mr Gibbon in 1835 married Margaret Allardice Innes, and after several years of Continental travel took up his residence at Johnston Lodge. His genial manner and amiable disposition soon won the esteem of his neighbours, and the affection of all over whom his territorial influence extended. He removed to Edinburgh in 1852, and his later years were spent chiefly in the metropolis, where he died on the 14th of Sep-

tember 1877. His remains were interred at Laurencekirk, in the ground attached to the Episcopal Chapel.

Mrs Gibbon, who has shared the esteem of friends and the affection of dependants which were so long bestowed upon her husband, continues to reside in Edinburgh.

Elizabeth Abercromby Gibbon, their only child, was born on the 7th of December 1842. In 1860 she became the wife of David Alexander Pearson of Northcliffe, who was admitted in 1850 into the Society of Writers to the Signet in Edinburgh.

Mrs Pearson, through her maternal grandmother, is a direct representative of the line of Barclay of Mathers. Her succession to the estate gave to the number of landed proprietors in the parish a lineal descendant of John, brother of Humphrey de Berkeley, the earliest one on record, whose possessions in the twelfth century included a portion of the lands which are now attached to Johnston.

It may be interesting to add that Mrs Pearson belongs to the twenty-second generation of the race of Barclays, reckoning from John de Berkeley. Mrs Johnston of Kair and Redmyre is also in the twenty-second generation, though nearly three hundred years have elapsed since the separation of the lines to which the respective families belong. And those two are not the only instances in these pages to be cited in proof of the well-known genealogical fact, that the average length of a generation is about thirty years.

PART SECOND.

HISTORY OF THE BURGH.

CHAPTER XVIII.

LAURENCEKIRK.

The credit of having founded the village of Laurencekirk, as well as of having erected the burgh, has usually been given to Lord Gardenstone; but, though his lordship's merits were great in the way of enlargement and improvement, it is certain that the village was in existence more than a century before he had acquired an interest in the parish.

In another chapter appears the earliest record extant of "Kirktoun of Conveth, otherwise called St Laurance." The reference is to a charter of 1646, which among other things annexed the Kirkton to the burgh of Haulkerton. It is not unlikely that the alternative name "St Laurance" had been employed from that date to designate the village. The name of Laurencekirk must have been in common use during Ruddiman's official connection with

the parish, 1695-1700—the first edition of his Rudiments bearing on the title-page that he had been "sometime schoolmaster at Laurencekirk." It was then a village with an inn, under the roof of which the celebrated Dr Pitcairne was glad to shelter himself; and it may have been more than the inconsiderable hamlet represented by the biographer of the grammarian, considering the Doctor's inquiry at the hostess after some one to share his dinner and interchange conversation.

The first occurrence of the name of "Laurancekirk" in the presbytery records is under date 10th September 1701, after which, with one or two exceptions, the name of Conveth is dropped. It may be presumed that the village had given its name to the parish about that time,—a circumstance, too, indicating that it had acquired larger proportions and been of longer standing than is generally supposed.

Being situated on the very border of the Haulkerton estate, the village was likely to extend in course of time to the lands of Johnston. By-and-by the name of Laurencekirk was applied to the whole village; but there appears to have been two separate villages in existence in the early years of the eighteenth century—one the Kirkton of Conveth, the other Laurencekirk, the original village on the Haulkerton estate. A minute of kirk-session records, of date 25th March 1712, that "James Nairn in Brintone, and Arthur Shepherd, *Mert. att Laurencekirk*, gave an oak plank to be a *Bridge att the Kirktown*, and would have nothing for it."

A statistical account of the village gives its pop-

ulation in 1730 as not exceeding eighty. It is described by the biographer of Dr Beattie as an obscure hamlet at the time of the poet's birth, 1735. In the next sentence, however, he records the fact that James Beattie, the poet's father, in addition to his house at Borrowmuirhills, rented a small shop in the village; so that the obscurity of the hamlet may not altogether have been owing to its insignificant size. Existing records of the period show that for a number of years the population was made up of one or two shopkeepers, several tradesmen, a number of labourers, and owners of a few surrounding crofts. There was a medical practitioner named Hamilton resident in the village. An Episcopal chapel, which was destroyed in 1745, had been in existence for a number of years.

The site of the village was gradually transferred from Haulkerton to Johnston estate. Probably the removal of Lord Falconer's residence to Inglismaldie, and the abandonment of Haulkerton Castle, contributed to the decadence of the original burgh. It was not, however, until a quarter of the present century had elapsed that the last relics of the old village disappeared, one of the latest being the abode of the once well-known "Coorage."

The ancient burgh had attained the privilege of a town-house, as appears from the following interesting

> "Declaration by kirk-officers as to their having affixed a summons to church-doors, ordering all persons to deliver up their arms at Laurencekirk, on the 27th May 1748.

> "At Stonhyve, the 30th day of May 1748 years, in presence of Sir William Ogilvie of Barras, Baronet, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Kincardine,

Compeared the following kirk-officers,—viz., James Stephen, Fettercairn; Alexander Cairncross, Marykirk; William Tod, Arbuthnott; William Still, Nether Banchory; Alexander Beattie, Strachan; John Inglis, Benholm; Robert Robert, Bervie; John Pirie, Durris; Robert Clark, Glenbervie; James Clark, Kinneff; James Cant, Dunnottar; James Burnett, Fetteresso; James Peter, Nigg; John Gillespie, Upper Banchory; and James Falconer, Fordoun, who all deponed that they did affix to the church-doors of their respective parishes a summons under the hand and seal of Humphrey Bland, Esq., commander of his Majesty's forces in Scotland, ordering the hail persons within their respective parishes to deliver up their arms and warlike weapons to him at Laurencekirk, within the Town-House thereof, upon the twenty-seventh day of the said month of May 1748."

Four elders were ordained in 1751, and the fact that three of them were residenters of Laurencekirk indicates a fair amount of population in the village, The next few years, however, it may have declined, as the statistical account already referred to bears that in 1762 it had been reduced to not more than fifty-four.

The first start to growth and prosperity was given to the village by the advent of Lord Gardenstone as proprietor of Johnston. So early as 1772, David

Beattie, his factor, appeared at a meeting of kirk-session, "to purchase the loft belonging to the poor, in consequence of the increasing size of the village." His lordship's energies were first moved in this direction by a feeling which, in a Preface to his "Letter to the People of Laurencekirk," he has described in these characteristic terms:—

"In ancient and heroic days, persons of the highest ambition aspired at a character of being the founders of societies and cities. I have produced an elegant proof of this in a quotation from Virgil; and it is finely illustrated in a story related by Plutarch (I think) of Themistocles. A man of quality in ancient Greece, who seems to have possessed a modern taste of distinction and pleasure, asked Themistocles if he could play on the lute? No, said he, I cannot, but I can raise a small village to be a flourishing city."

Lord Gardenstone acknowledged that he was both encouraged and aided in his pet scheme by the example of Sir Richard Cox, an Irish gentleman, who, thirty years before, had applied himself by a similar experiment to the improvement of his property, and who had detailed the fruits of his experience in a pamphlet. Encouragement was given to strangers settling in the village who were likely to promote its industry; and it soon became a centre of attraction to handicraftsmen and others from all parts of the country. According to tradition, only one branch of industry was at a discount in those early years of the village. A hatter had come from a distance to judge for himself what encouragement was likely to be given to a person

in his peculiar line. The few days of his stay included Sunday, when he went to church, and observed that the only hats in the congregation were the minister's and his own. Disappointed, if not indeed disgusted, he left the village early on Monday morning, resolved to prosecute the sale of hats elsewhere. The worthy man must have had as little faith in himself as in his hats. Otherwise, one could hardly have conceived a better field for enterprise, unless indeed the minister's head had been covered with a "braid blue bonnet," affording to an energetic man of business the promise of one customer more.

It was the rapid increase of the population from so many different sources that the Aberdeen Professor had in view when he penned the famous rhyme, which was no doubt meant to be very satirical:—

> "Frae sma' beginnings Rome of auld
> Becam' a great imperial city.
> 'Twas peopled first, as we are tauld,
> By bankrupts, vagabonds, banditti.
> Quoth Tammas, then the time may come
> When Laurencekirk will equal Rome."

Degenerate son of the rhymer! what would the dim-visioned seer have thought could he only have realised that, long before a century had gone, the time would have come when Laurencekirk had a whole "parliament" to itself?

The principles on which Lord Gardenstone sought to build up the little community, in which he manifested so profound an interest, may be judged from the details of his letter, subsequently addressed to the inhabitants of the new burgh. They were

marked by his good practical sense, and no doubt commanded a considerable influence on the villagers. He started on the fundamental principle of giving aid when necessary, and encouragement always, but only to those who showed they were deserving of it by industrious habits, prudent management of their affairs, punctual discharge of their liabilities, and a steady advance in the way of self-improvement. The general interests of the community were likely to be promoted when one of the tests, by which his lordship solemnly declared he would distinguish the industrious thriving man as an object of special favour, was in these terms: "I will make particular observation if your clothing and the furniture of your houses are produced by domestic industry, or at least manufactured by some inhabitant of the village. This economy is both laudable and profitable to an industrious village, and ought at least to be observed until they attain to some extent of foreign commerce, when exchange of commodities may become a branch of trade and industry."

Though these and the many other maxims, of which his lordship was a most lavish offerer, were only committed to writing at an after-date, they guided his whole intercourse with the village during the earlier years of his possession. His unflagging interest in its prosperity may be evidenced in the following quotations from manuscript "Notes and Observations on a Tour to some of the Manufacturing Villages in England, November 1771."

"*Halifax.* — I happened to arrive upon the occasion of a publick rejoicing on acct. that New York was reduced. . . . They are famous here

for making the best wool-combs in England. I took the occasion, upon the skill of my friendly conductors, to buy a pair of them at twenty-seven shillings price, for the use of my man at Laurance-kirk. I intend it as a present, and one token of my approbation."

"*Newcastle.* — I must observe that this gentleman (Mr Scott) and all the other manufacturers were highly pleased with my stocking coat, and particularly surprised at the good dye, in which they thought that we had been much more deficient in all parts of Scotland. . . . Both he and his son, a promising young man about nineteen years of age, expressed a very hearty goodwill to my undertaking, and a desire to aid it."

David Beattie got frequent instructions to assist the feuars while building their houses with cartage, and otherwise whenever possible. Not many years were required to establish the success of his project, which ripened at last into the scheme which he had contemplated all along. This was to acquire a charter erecting the lands of Johnston into a barony, and Laurencekirk into a burgh of barony, "with all powers, liberties, privileges, and jurisdictions whatsoever, belonging and competent, or which ought to belong or be competent, to any complete and independent burgh of barony." It was accomplished on the 27th of August 1779. As defined in the charter, the limits of the burgh were "within eight hundred and thirty-eight yards on each side of the king's highway, which at present forms the street of the said town" of Laurencekirk, running along the highway as far as the bounds

of the Johnston estate. The administration of the common good was intrusted to a bailie and four councillors, any three to be a quorum, who were to exercise all the powers usually conferred in such cases, of enacting by-laws and rules conformable to the public law, necessary for the preservation of peace, and conducive to the progress and prosperity of the burgh. The election of magistrates and councillors was to be triennial, by all resident burgesses of full age, on the first Wednesday of June. The burgh was to have power and liberty of having and holding a weekly market on Thursday every week, as well as a free yearly fair, to begin on the first Wednesday of November, and to continue for three days successively,—the tolls, customs, and duties of the weekly and annual markets to be levied by the bailie and councillors, and applied by them for the good and benefit of the community.

The Masons' Lodge was erected the same year, Lord Gardenstone's subscription towards the work being £20. The following entry is in his MS.: "1779, *June* 4.—This day we had a grand procession, well conducted, to lay the foundation-stone of the Lodge. Mr Andrew Thomson of Banchory is Grand-grand-master, and an excellent one he is."

The recurrence of St John's Day was an event to stir the juvenile minds of Laurencekirk. The procession of members of the Lodge, with the badges and adornments of their craft, was something to anticipate the one half of the year, and remember the other. If there was a part of the spectacle more sublime than another, it was the reverend chaplain (James Jack, of all men), with the Book

on its suspended board. The secrets of the mysterious conclave were impenetrable to the uninitiated, yet a sacrilegious little bird has carried to vulgar ear the address of one right worshipful master, which began and ended thus: "Brethren—hm—hm—hm—od, that is queer! I haid it a' real clair on the slate this mornin'."

It is not for these pages to unfold how the material progress of the burgh advanced until it has attained its present proportions, and become the seat of a community whose intelligence and enterprise are known all over the country. Their purpose will be sufficiently served by what may appear a discursive account of a few of the more prominent characters and events identified with the earlier period of its history. Here, however, it may be stated that the only considerable addition to the original area of the village was the formation of Johnston Street, long known as the new town, about 1820, and of Garvock Street soon after. Villagers still survive who herded cows in the fields on what is now the site of those two streets. The handsome cottages which constitute Alma Terrace were of comparatively recent construction.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE FIRST COUNCILS.

A more detailed account of the transactions of the first burgh councils may be given, partly out of deference to their priority in the honourable position which has since been filled by many worthy men, but chiefly as an illustration of the kind of work which devolved on themselves and their successors in the discharge of their statutory duties. The first councillors were elected on the 7th June 1780, and were: George Murdoch, innkeeper,—*Bailie.* John Lakie, butcher; William Lyall, corkcutter; John Silver, baker; John Scott, schoolmaster,—*Councillors.* They took the oath *de fideli* in presence of Lord Gardenstone; Dr Leith, who was the tenant of the mansion-house of Johnston; Mr Thomson of Banchory; and Mr Ewen, merchant in Aberdeen.

Mr Scott was elected treasurer and clerk; and the Johnsonian periods, which roll through a large part of the first minute-book, might almost suggest that the schoolmaster had received a touch of the mantle of the great lexicographer in his passage through the town.

One of the first duties which fell to the performance of the new council was the letting of the seats in the west end of the church, set apart for the villagers, which on that occasion yielded the sum of £1, 4s. 6½d. to the public fund. This was con-

tinued annually for a number of years, probably until the old church had given place to the present one. Two sittings in the second pew were reserved for servants of the proprietor, while the front pew was set apart for himself, to be occupied in his absence by the bailie and councillors.

The founder of the burgh, impressing upon the burgesses a sense of their privileges, was careful to remind them it was not "in the power of your magistrates and managers to embezzle your funds, to eat and drink them, as they do in the other burghs of Scotland;" the fact being, that they were prohibited from entertaining themselves or others at the public expense, on all occasions excepting the anniversaries of the birthdays of the reigning sovereign, and of Lord Gardenstone himself, when, however, they were restricted to an expenditure of not more than *one guinea.*

An opportunity soon occurred of paying this mark of respect to their immediate chief, and this is the minute which records the observance:—

"*Laurenceckirk, 24th of June* 1780.—This being the anniversary birthday of the Honourable Lord Gardenstone, the worthy founder of this burgh, the same was honoured by the magistrates and burgesses, with every possible mark of real affection and respect so meritoriously due to so valuable a character, and nothing but the utmost decency and decorum was observed, the inhabitants having concluded the evening with a jovial and peaceable deportment. Quis desiderio sit pudor aut modus jam cari capitis?

Expended one guinea, as per cash-book."

But it is due to their zeal, as loyal subjects also, to put upon record a proof that they were not neglectful of their privilege as regards the king. The instance selected is of date 4th June 1784:—

"This being the anniversary of his Majesty's birthday, the same was celebrated here by the ringing of the church-bell and some platoons from a small body of musketeers; and in the evening the bailie and town council, with the Right Honourable Lord Gardenstone and some other gentlemen, went and drank the healths of his Majesty and the Royal Family, with other loyal toasts; and the auspicious day was concluded with every demonstration of real joy."

The meetings of council were held, first in Murdoch's Inn, and afterwards successively in Cream's, Adam's, and Downie's, until the 21st June 1819, when the bailie and councillors convened for the first time in the council-room, an apartment in the western wing of the Gardenstone Arms. The first council seem to have been exemplary in the regularity of their attendance; but in the immediately succeeding one, the bailie was obliged to exercise his authority by a threat not altogether in accordance with the constitution. The minute of 7th February 1785 bears that, "As a sufficient quorum of the council is not present at this meeting, no public business could come under cognisance—they therefore adjourn till next month." Next month there was no improvement, and the clerk had to record, "As this meeting is similar to the former one in point of attendance, it is hereby resolved that in

future, if punctual appearance is not made by the other counsellors, the baillie will proceed to public business with those who do attend, whether there be a quorum or not."

A considerable portion of the official time of the council was taken up in the trial of petty cases, and in the settlement of little differences between neighbours. On the 5th November 1781, the council received a petition from William Falconer, tailor, complaining that "David Beattie, labourer, had the preceding evg. beat and abused one of his servants, by name Alex. Shaw, in a cruel and inhumane manner." On examination, "it appeared that this Alexander Shaw was a boy who had an irregular behaviour upon former occasions, and particularly in the evening alluded to in the petition he tumultuously infested the house of the said David Beattie in a riotous manner, when his wife was in travail; and it further appeared that the said William Falconer had not acted with such caution and prudence towards the said David Beattie as was requisite. Thereupon the court was adjourned till this day eight days. But in the interim the said William Falconer and the said David Beattie compromised the affair themselves, and are in perfect friendship; and with this report the court was highly pleased, and Mr Falconer in future was desired to pay strict attention to this apprentice of his, and not allow him to stroll in the street, when he should have him advantageously employed at his business."

There was a case of illegal enlistment which exercised their patience in the year following, and issued in a remarkable judicial deliverance which

deserves to be specially recorded. John Watson, a young lad from Benholm, had been attracted to the public-house of James Laurence, "upon the mercat-day of St Anthony's Fair," by an old acquaintance, a recruiting corporal. Sundry glasses of punch and a bottle of ale had been discussed, and the hat of Corporal William Moncreif had been transferred to the head of John Watson, when Sergeant Macdonald made his appearance. An interchange of coins was known to have passed between Watson and the sergeant—for the payment of the drink, according to the one, and in the way of arling a servant to the king, as explained by the other. After all which, "the said John Watson got the sergeant's sword and went out to the street with it, covered with the corporal's hat or cap. Upon this, John Watson's friends and acquaintances raised a clamour and uproar, and carried off the said John Watson home." Evidence having been duly led, the following sentence was recorded:—

"The baillie taking the above matter under consideration, finds, as far as the above evidence goes, that the said John Watson was not regularly enlisted; but as it appears that he the said John Watson had been tampering with the party, ordains him to pay the smart, being twenty shillings sterling as usual, and that the sergeant pay the expense of drink at this present meeting; and further ordains the said John Watson to pay half-a-crown to the clerk of court, and decerns accordingly.

(Signed) George Murdoch.

(Signed) Jno. Scott, Clk."

But it must not be supposed that the general interests of the community were not attended to by the gentlemen who formed the first council of the burgh. It has been noticed elsewhere that the harvest of 1782 was a disastrous one. The next two years, measures had to be adopted to relieve the wants of the more necessitous of the villagers. Grain was purchased at the dear rate, and sold to the poor at reduced prices, according to the degree of their poverty. The purchase in 1783 amounted to £331, 12s. 7¼d., and the sale brought a return of £302, 4s. 7¼d., entailing a loss of £29, 8s., which does not on the whole indicate a large measure of destitution. To meet this deficit, £25 had been advanced by the kirk-session, and £10 by the burgh; and the adjustment of the balance in excess seems to have been gone about in a way favourable to the finances of the latter, as it is gravely recorded that the total sacrifice of the burgh was £5, 12s.

Most communities have at some time or other found the supply of water to be a source of perplexity; and for many years this seems to have been an object of concern to the successive councils of the burgh. One thing specially recommended by Lord Gardenstone to the people was to find means "to collect and convey abundance of good water to every house by pipes,"—a thing which he characterised as very practicable. The water found its way by open channels to the various wells in the village. Several complaints were soon lodged; and "the magistrates, ever prone to redress such grievances," having discovered the cause of the water being diverted, enjoined all the inhabitants capable of work to go on

a certain day for the clearance of the channels, "which order," records the clerk, "was obeyed by the generality of the people (some being necessarily detained); *others were refractory.*" The result was temporarily successful; and, the rivulet being cleared, "thereupon every murmur was suppressed." William Bowman's starch-work was a frequent cause of complaint; and John Skae, weaver, was a persistent transgressor in diverting the rivulet of water for the irrigation of his own lands. When summoned into the presence of their honours, John pleaded that "he had been guilty of no transgression by applying the village rivulet for the purpose of watering his fields at this season of the year when water was flowing everywhere in abundance; especially as such-like freedoms were allowed to Dr Leith at Johnston in the summer-time, when the water was very scarce everywhere, and the inhabitants of this burgh in great straits."

John went from the presence of the council evidently hardened in his transgression; for, according to the testimony of the minute-book, "A day or two after, it was reported to the baillie by John Hutcheon merchant here that the water which should supply the village was still overflowing John Skae's fields, and that there was scarcity, upon which the baillie went and put back the water with his own hand; and in the evening of said day John Skae contemptuously thrust it out again, whereupon the baillie gave orders to the officer, George Collie, to serve the said John Skae with another summonse, at the instance of the said John Hutcheon, to appear before the baillie and council in his own house, where the

court usually sits, upon the 11th of December curt."

He appeared on the day in question, and was fined seven shillings and sixpence, with half-a-crown of expenses. It is to be hoped the penalty made due impression on the offender, and all the more that a few years later John Skae and William Bowman were both raised to the position of councillors by the suffrages of the burgesses.

A son of William Bowman, who emigrated, became a successful colonist, and was the founder of Bowmanville, which is described in the 'Gazetteer of the World' as "a town in Durham county, province Ontario, Dominion of Canada, with an excellent harbour on Lake Ontario. Population, 3000."

In the time of the first council, Lord Gardenstone made certain proposals to the people of Laurencekirk. They were: 1st, that he and his successors would pay £10 sterling yearly for public uses; 2d, the long leases would be renewed at the end of every hundred years, for the moderate premium of two years' rent; and 3d, that he and his successors would burden every future grant of long leases with payment of one penny per fall to the public fund. These proposals were on condition that the burgesses then should bind themselves to pay one penny per fall to the common fund. There was some dilatoriness in complying with these reasonable proposals, and they were sharply repeated, with notification that it was for the last time, and that they would be withdrawn if their acceptance was not immediately subscribed by every one of the burgesses. The proposals were witnessed by David Beattie, his factor, and William

Garden, his clerk. The subscription of the burgesses was procured in sufficient time; and it may be interesting to give here the names of the subscribers, as an authentic list of the original feuars in the burgh :—

John Scott.
John Silver.
John Ray.
James Brodie.
John Chearls.
John Scott.
George Collie.
David Beattie.
William Reid.
James Whitsunday.
David Beattie.
William Rew.
Alexander Smart.
David Beattie.
James Lawrence.
John Lackie.
James Blacklaw.
James Macdonald.
Mary Doan.
Robert Lyall.
John Hutcheson.
David Mitchel (1789).
John Cook.
William Watt.
George Murdock.
Thomas Thomson.
James Duncan.
Moses Arbuthnot's relict.
William Murray.
William Silver.
William Lyall.
John Blacklaws.
William Silver.
Alexander Mather.
David Duirs.
George Will.
Robert Tavendale.
James Strachan.
David Muchart.
Alexander Simpson.
George Bannerman.
James Hill.
Robert Winton.
John Skae.
John Laing (1800).

The subscriptions were made in the council-book, the three last being at a subsequent date. Before the agreement is concluded by the signature of Lord Gardenstone, a note is appended which indicates the sharp and methodical man of business: "I observe that some of the above subscribers, particularly 'John Ray,' 'James Whitsunday,' and 'John Chearls' (as I

think), have no title to the character of burgesses. —(Signed) Fra. Garden."

James Whitsunday, who was one of the doubtful list, would not have reflected much honour upon the burgh had he been a *bonâ fide* constituent. James had not prospered in his affairs, and a few years afterwards he evaded his difficulties by what is called a "moonlicht flittin'." The villagers were in a state of excitement on the following day, when there happened to be a servant from Arbuthnott House on his errands. When he returned, he was asked by his master, "What news from the village?" "Nothing, my lord, but that Whitsunday's run off." "Whitsunday run off! I am glad to hear it," his lordship replied; "I wish he had taken Martinmas and Christmas along with him!"

The deference shown to Lord Gardenstone by the first council of the burgh was continued, by their successors in office, during the remainder of his lordship's life. No important transaction was completed without first having been brought under his notice. The following minute will serve not only as an example of this, but to show that at that early date the minds of the councillors were favourably turned to an institution which, whatever its present importance, was then but rarely encouraged: "20*th April* 1790.—The meeting are unanimous of opinion that a Sunday-school will be highly beneficial for the young children of this town, and think that parts of the funds could not be better applied than for to encourage such an undertaking, but decline doing anything decisive in the matter until they have an opportunity of consulting Lord Gardenstone in per-

son." The first Sunday-school in Scotland was established in 1760 by the Rev. David Blair, one of the ministers of Brechin; but it was long before it became a general institution in the country: and it reflects the greater credit on the town council of 1790 to have been thus in advance of public opinion in regard to a system which now fills so important a place in the religious community.

When the intelligence of Lord Gardenstone's death arrived, the town council met, and agreed to record the following tribute on the minute-book:—

"*Laurencekirk, 24th July* 1793.—This day the melancholy news of the death of our benevolent and worthy founder, the Hon. Lord Gardenstone, reached this place.

"His lordship died at Morningside, near Edinburgh, upon Monday morning the 22d of July curt., aged seventy-two years and four weeks, lamented by all good men.

"Justly may WE join with the poet Horace when admonishing Virgil to bear with patience the death of Quintilius, and say, 'What shame or bound can there be to our affection for so dear a person?' (more freely) 'Why should we be ashamed of, why set bounds to our sorrow for a person so dearly beloved?'"

For many years the founder's birthday was regularly observed, and his memory duly honoured. On 25th June 1810, "In the evening the baillie and counsellors, with a few others, met in Cream's Inn, and took a moderate glass in commemoration of the founder of the village." Next year, on the same occasion, "they took a glass *at their own expense;*" and "a few respectable inhabitants were also pres-

ent." The minute of 24th June 1817 is worthy of being recorded at full length: "This evening the baillie, Messrs Suttor and Robb, counsellors, and two burgesses, met in Cream's little parlour to commemorate the birth of the founder of this village. On account of the scarcity of work and low wages the families of labourers are in very straitened circumstances, and therefore the baillie declared that the utmost moderation should be adopted. The bill was only 5s. 6d., or 1s. 6d. each, waiter included.

"*N.B.*—Oatmeal this season is retailed at 2s. and 2s. 1d. per peck. Bear-meal at 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d. per peck. The women get only 8d. for spinning a spindle of lint. Day-labourers receive only 1s. a-day, without victuals."

It was during this depression among the labouring classes that two inscriptions were put upon a house in the Back Settlements, now Gardenstone Street:—

"1814. We thought of better times.
1816. But worse came."

The house belonged to William Milne, who for a number of years had been grieve at Johnston. One of his peculiarities was a remarkable craving for homage from his subordinates. The more prudent of the servants' wives who wished to stand well in his opinion, took care to impress upon their children, when they met the grieve, to "hae their bonnets aneth their oxters, an' ca' 'im Maister Milne." And the lesson was carefully observed, all the more because an occasional sixpence from the grieve's bounty rewarded the youth who excelled in the act of

obeisance. William removed from Johnston in 1814 to the house which he entered "thinking of better times." Next year, after Waterloo was fought, the disbanding of soldiers overran the country with men to compete with the ordinary labourer, and cause a still greater dearth of employment; and in 1816, when the "worse times came," he left the village for Aberdeen, in which, after various resorts, he took up the business of auctioneer. His daughters, Rachel and Jean, were the wives respectively of Peter Tawse and Thomas Dry.

CHAPTER XX.

CHIEF MAGISTRATES.

George Murdoch, of whom an account will be found in Chapter XLII., was the first bailie, and he held the office for six years.

Alexander Gairdyne was his successor, having been elected in 1786. He is understood to have been a relative of Lord Gardenstone; and when his name appears on the record, unless in the case of his own signature, it is in the form of Garden, the family name of Troup. It is probable that William Garden, Lord Gardenstone's clerk, was related to Bailie Gairdyne, who was originally an advocate in Aberdeen. He came to the Mearns as factor on the Arbuthnott estate, and resided at Mains of Fordoun. He was also a justice of the peace. He had probably quali-

fied himself as a burgess by the purchase of a feu, though it is not known where it was situated. The qualification of residence, though essential to the right of electing a bailie and councillors, is not required by the charter in the case of the person elected as bailie; and Mr Gairdyne, though he continued to reside at Mains of Fordoun, held the office of bailie for the next nine years. Before his death he had resumed his residence in Aberdeenshire. One of his daughters was the maternal grandmother of the late John Garland of Cairnton; and the portrait of Lord Gardenstone now in the St Laurence Hall was the gift of his youngest daughter to the burgh.

Alexander Smart was the next chief magistrate, having been elected to the office in 1795. He had long been tenant at Powburn, and was ordained an elder in the parish in 1760. His feu was next to Charters Square, and part of the house erected upon it was for many years occupied by his daughter Margaret. He was a portly man, as is indicated by his portrait in the Gardenstone Arms, and his wig added to the gravity of his appearance. Being on a visit to Keith Hall, he was met by a Roman Catholic servant of Lord Kintore, who, mistaking him for a priest of her own persuasion, knelt down to do him reverence and receive his blessing. The worthy bailie was taken aback, and hastened to undeceive the kneeling petitioner: "Get up, lassie, get up,—I'm no' a bishop!" He held the official position only for three years, and before 1807 he had resigned the eldership in consequence of old age. Bailie Smart was succeeded as tenant of Powburn by his son James, who died in 1848, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

John Scott was elected to fill the chair of the chief magistrate in 1798. He continued to discharge the duties of the clerkship, which he had done since the erection of the burgh. A short account of Mr Scott, in the capacity of schoolmaster, will be found in another place. If wanting in energy among his pupils, there is full evidence of his having discharged his magisterial duties, as well as filled the office of clerk, with considerable ability. One incident in the course of his magistracy shows him in the light of a practical humorist. The right of presenting a minister to the Episcopal church having devolved upon him, he gravely executed a deed of presentation in favour of the Right Reverend William Abernethy Drummond, D.D., the Bishop of Edinburgh, who was in his eighty-ninth year, and, to crown his qualifications for the appointment, completely bedridden. There was exquisite pawkiness in the manner in which he thus discharged an official act for which personally he probably had an utter dislike. It is apparent from the records that Mr Scott had exercised a very considerable influence on all the councils of the burgh, until advancing years necessitated his retirement from official life. He discharged the duties of bailie for twelve years, and was for thirty years clerk to the burgh. He died in 1816, leaving three daughters, one of whom occupied the cottage on the feu which he had owned until her death. Another was the wife of John Watson, tenant at Scotston, of a family long connected with the parish; and she was the maternal grandmother of Mr John Watt, postmaster.

John Scott, designated a farmer, was the next bailie, his election having taken place in 1810. He was originally a blacksmith, and was succeeded in that business by his brother, William Scott, who was also a councillor for a number of years. Bailie Scott farmed some of the lands near the village, and devoted himself with considerable assiduity to the affairs of the burgh. It was during his tenure of the office that Dr Fordyce acted as clerk. On his displacement, David Hutcheon, writer, Stonehaven, was elected clerk, with James Hampton, mason, as substitute. Having acted for twelve years, Bailie Scott, though re-elected, declined to accept office. He survived until 1837, when he died, having "willed £50 to the burgh of Laurencekirk, in aid of the public funds thereof, and to be applied in such way as its rulers may direct." Until a recent date his property was in the possession of his nieces, the Misses Scott.

James Crabb was the candidate who had the next highest number of suffrages when Mr Scott refused acceptance of the office in 1822, and he was elected bailie accordingly. During his magistracy several important measures were introduced, which tended to the better ordering of the affairs of the burgh. A procurator-fiscal was appointed in 1823. Four years after, David Dickson, writer, was appointed joint clerk with James Hampton, but only for judicial business; and Alexander Stiven was elected procurator-fiscal. These changes were for the establishment of a baron court in the burgh, the want of which had been attended with inconvenience, and sometimes with detriment to the interests of justice and order. Bailie Crabb continued in office

for nine years, and when he retired a vote of thanks was specially accorded to him and his council by their successors. Naturally he was of a quiet temperament, but he had sufficient firmness when there was need for the exercise of that quality. Some years before, the road trustees had resolved on erecting a toll-bar within the limits of the burgh. A baronet in the neighbourhood was appointed to see the resolution carried into effect. But, when he arrived with a number of workmen to execute his mission, he was gallantly met on the spot by the bailie with a sufficient following, and warned that he would be opposed in the attempt. The baronet preferred the exercise of discretion to any show of valour; he retired from the scene, and the threatened impost was abandoned. Bailie Crabb, who was a native of Cairnton, died in 1855, aged eighty-two years. He had three sons, one of whom, Robert, was burgh clerk for a number of years, and is now a banker in Auchinblae. A nephew, William Crabb, a native of Laurencekirk, acquired great distinction as an artist. He spent part of his life in London, but returned to his native place before his death, which occurred in 1876, in time to leave behind him a large number of admirably executed portraits, in which his reputation as an artist will long survive him.

David Dickson was elected bailie in 1831, and the burgh clerkship was transferred from James Hampton to George Begg, parish schoolmaster. Mr Dickson was in office for one term only, but for many years continued to act as a councillor, and never ceased to take an active interest in the prosperity of the burgh.

Mr Dickson was the son of Patrick Dickson of Slatefield, near Forfar, where he was born in 1800. When a boy at school, he walked from Forfar to Aberdeen, accompanied by his elder brother, and with a favourite dog, which had to be carried part of the way. On reaching Laurencekirk the young travellers were ready for dinner; and, by a singular coincidence, not only did the house to which they repaired afterwards become the property of the younger of the two, but the room in which they partook of their meal was for many years his own special apartment in his writing-chambers. Having served an apprenticeship under Provost Meffan in Forfar, he obtained in 1819 an appointment in the office of Messrs Macqueen and Macintosh, Writers to the Signet, whose firm was one of the most influential in Edinburgh. His avocations during five years' residence there brought him in contact with the more famous lawyers of the day, and many racy anecdotes of the Lords of Session and other celebrities enlivened an evening in his genial company. The principal Waverley novels were issued while he was in Edinburgh, and he had interesting reminiscences of them and their illustrious author. His admission as a notary public was subscribed by Sir Walter Scott, then a clerk of the Court of Session, and his residence was next house to that of Sir Walter's distinguished son-in-law and biographer, John Gibson Lockhart.

Mr Dickson settled in Laurencekirk, and began the practice of a Writer in 1824. Shortly afterwards he was appointed factor on the estate of Johnston, which was under his charge for a considerable period.

He acquired possession of the brewery about 1830, and for some years the business was conducted in his interest. In 1838 he entered on a lease of the farm of Spurriehillock, and his energy and enterprise as a farmer soon became apparent. If not the first to introduce, he was among the earliest in Scotland to adopt, covered courts and loose feeding-boxes for cattle, which are now regarded as indispensable to good farming.

Up to 1839 there was no bank in the neighbourhood, and the lack of such an essential to the ordinary transaction of business was felt to be a great inconvenience. That year Mr Dickson was appointed agent in Laurencekirk for the Aberdeen Town and County Bank, and the facilities given to trade under his generous management were highly appreciated. (It was not until 1857 that an agency for the North of Scotland Bank was established by the late John Watson.)

In 1854, Mr Dickson was appointed factor on the large estates of Mr Baird of Urie, lying in the counties of Kincardine, Forfar, and Inverness. In the following year he assumed his son, Patrick Dickson, as partner in his extensive business, and was thus enabled to devote more of his skill and energy to agriculture, and, notwithstanding his many professional engagements, became one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Angus and Mearns. Besides farming Johnston for a short period, he completed two leases on Spurriehillock; and in 1858 he acquired a lease of Pert, one of the largest farms in Forfarshire. On that farm he erected, from plans designed by himself, an extensive steading, one byre

of which has accommodation for 120 cattle. Though a whole lease has run since its erection, the steading of Pert is still regarded as a model, and has attracted a large number of visitors from all parts of England and Scotland.

His counsel was largely sought in other respects than professionally, and the benefit of his experience was never withheld. His public spirit and intelligence contributed very much to the prosperity of the burgh, and were never wanting where the interests of the neighbourhood were concerned. His clear judgment, and great facility in grasping the true merits of a case from the most entangled statement, made him a safe counsellor in times of difficulty; and his practical acquaintance with agriculture rendered him, in a particular sense, the farmer's friend. He had a strong aversion to litigation, unusual in a lawyer; and one of his frequent sayings was, "Don't go to law, if yielding does not cost you more than forty shillings in the pound." Taking the uncertainty of judicial decisions and the enormous expense of a legal process into account, the wholesomeness of the advice in average circumstances is very apparent.

Mr Dickson had enjoyed the benefit of a good constitution until a year or two before the close of his life. When the end came, and it was announced that he had breathed his last, there were many who felt what one in the village was heard to say: "Well may Laurencekirk mourn for Mr Dickson; it is just what he and Dr Fettes made it!" He died, 17th September 1878, in his seventy-eighth year.

Peter Blacklaws succeeded to the office of bailie, to which he was elected in 1834. His practical ex-

perience as a contractor enabled him to be of considerable service to the burgh while he was spared to perform the duties of chief magistrate. He died 19th April 1837, leaving a widow and large family, several of whom, on reaching manhood, emigrated to push their fortunes in a foreign land.

Bailie Blacklaws is the only magistrate of the burgh who has died while holding office. The charter having made no provision for filling a vacancy in the office, Mr Dickson was appointed to act as preses of the council during the remainder of the term.

George Begg had been succeeded in the clerkship by Bowman Watson, who was followed in the office by James Menzies.

James Fettes was elected bailie in 1837, and the same year Robert Crabb was appointed clerk, to be succeeded in the office by Patrick Dickson in 1854.

Dr Fettes was a native of Brechin, where he was born in 1797. Having finished an apprenticeship with Dr Guthrie of Brechin, he entered the medical classes in Edinburgh, and in due time was qualified as a practitioner. His first stay in Laurencekirk was with a view to the recruiting of his health, which in a few years was thoroughly established. He afterwards settled in the village in 1818. He soon acquired a large practice, and after forty years of indefatigable labours among rich and poor, who shared alike in the benefits of his experience and skill, his services to the community were acknowledged in the public presentation of silver plate, and a portrait of himself by Crabb, now in the St Laurence Hall. An interesting part of this well-earned testimonial was a written address, beautifully executed

by John Thomson, a young lad whose arms had both been amputated several years before, and whose life, so far as human means were concerned, had been prolonged by the skill and devoted care of the doctor.

For many years he took a practical interest in farming, and was tenant, first at Nether Pert, and for a long period subsequently at Odmoston. He was a zealous promoter of the Mearns Farmers' Society, which was instituted in 1792 for the benefit of the widows of farmers, and consisted at one time of 150 members. The accumulated fund amounts to nearly £8000. The widows on the roll, numbering 20 at present, receive an annuity of £35 each. The Society, which is now reduced to 10 members, is being gradually wound up.

During the magistracy of Dr Fettes vast improvements were effected on the burgh, many of which were due to general causes and to the united efforts of the leaders of the community, though they all found in him a hearty supporter. One of the first was the introduction of gas in 1841. The opening of railway communication in 1849 resulted in many changes tending to the improvement of the village. The east, or what was familiarly called the "butter," end of the town, has been so completely transformed that only one or two traces of its appearance forty years ago can now be discerned. Alma Terrace is where "Clorty" was. That name, once so familiar, may only be found lurking in the affections of one or two of a former generation. The Aberdeen Town and County Bank, erected in 1854; the St Laurence Hall, built in 1866; and the North of Scotland Bank,

in 1872,—are all edifices which before the days of railway travelling would have been regarded by the native of Laurencekirk as marvels of architecture. Nor are the changes which speak of growing prosperity confined to one part of the burgh. Many a humble tenement has been replaced with buildings suited to modern taste and culture; while dreary lanes have been transformed into respectable streets, which in point of nomenclature will vie not unsuccessfully with many towns of larger population and greater pretension.

Bailie Fettes's tenure of office was of such lengthened duration, that in the eyes of nearly a whole generation he came to be identified with the chief magistracy of the burgh. But the infirmities of age necessitated his retirement in 1876, and he died on January 23d of the following year.

His elder son, Charles William Fettes, born in 1834, having passed the curriculum of Arts in St Andrews University, and of medicine in the University of Edinburgh, graduated at the latter university, and soon after obtained an appointment in the East India Company's service, which is understood to have been the last made by that honourable body. His destination was to the Presidency of Bombay, in which it was customary for all medical officers to serve at least two years of their time in the navy. Having completed rather more than the regular term as a naval medical officer, he was transferred to a regiment of horse-artillery, and was stationed with his regiment at Kirkee, until separated from it in consequence of important changes in the Indian service. His next appointment was a temporary

one, having been selected to meet Lady Lawrence at Aden, and be in attendance on her ladyship as medical officer until she joined her husband, the Governor-General of India. Soon after executing this mission he was promoted to the office of surgeon to the Governor of Bombay, who was then Sir Bartle Frere. His successful career was cut short by manifestations of declining health. When sufficiently recovered from the first severe attack, he left India for home. The first half of the homeward voyage was full of promise, but when near the Azores he suffered a relapse, and landed at Plymouth to breathe his last, 6th July 1866, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Dr Duirs, at the age of thirty-two years.

John Rae was elected bailie in 1876, and John Craig was appointed burgh clerk.

Bailie Rae, a native of the burgh, and the third holder of a name which has been on the list of burgesses from the beginning, is no unworthy successor of a line of chief magistrates, not one of whom survives, but the fruits of whose successive labours are still being reaped by the community at large.

CHAPTER XXI.

BURGH OFFICERS.

Independently of the burgh officers, there has been a variety of officials appointed from time to time, to carry out the behests of the councils.

Their duties have been more or less responsible in the eyes of the community, but they are not of sufficient importance to be enlarged upon; and it will be enough to preface this chapter on the more permanent functionary with a brief notice of one or two of those who have been associated with him in attending to the interests of the burgh.

Ever since the railway period began, the office of billet-master must have been a sinecure. In the early days of the burgh it demanded greater attention on the part of the master, and entailed more frequent inconvenience on the people. The first holder of the office was William Lyall, with whom it was no sinecure, as there were regiments frequently passing for whose accommodation he had to provide. The task was not one to be easily performed with satisfaction to all parties, and in 1782 William was accused before the council of partial billeting, when he received definite instructions as to his future conduct.

James Ross, constable, is referred to in a minute of 1811, but the office which he held was more of the nature of that of procurator-fiscal, his duty being to prosecute. The following year his services were in requisition among the more dilatory in the discharge of their water-rate. When the supply was first introduced into the village, the burgesses had agreed to pay eightpence per fireplace for water-money. But a regular procurator-fiscal was appointed, even before the reorganisation which took place during Bailie Crabb's tenure of office. James Walker was elected procurator-fiscal in November 1823.

George Collie was the first burgh officer. He

had given place before 1794 to James Napier, for whose use a hand-bell was procured by the council of that year.

John Dallas, one of the worthies whose portraits appear in the Gardenstone Arms, may have been the next official. On one occasion, his legitimate use of the bell was likely to involve him in trouble. There was a weavers' procession in the village of periodic occurrence. A mischievous blacksmith was in the habit, on such occasions, of expressing contempt for the craft as they marched past his workshop. A pole, to which was attached a strip of cloth—the more tattered it seemed the better for his purpose—was projected above the doorway, while the cry of "Lang thrums! lang thrums!" greeted the ears of the processionists until they were quite beyond the reach of his voice. The weavers had long pondered the offence done to their craft, when John Dallas was employed, in his capacity of bell-man, to make the following public announcement:—

"Take notice, this is to inform the inhabitants that Michael M'Cracker leaves William Scott's smiddy this forenoon, and the weavers will have free access through the village from one end to the other." The injured tradesmen, who had stood in awe of the real offender, threatened to wreak their vengeance upon his innocent agent, who had some difficulty in appeasing their wrath.

James Irvine was officer in 1813, and he had as his substitute John Balfour. The latter came from Montrose, and belonged to the family from which the honourable member for the county has sprung. He acquired possession of Lord Colvill's feu in

1814, and his widow was in possession until a comparatively recent date.

Alexander Neilson was burgh officer in 1816. That year he complained that Andrew Watson, shoemaker, and others, "persisted in firing musquets in spite of his orders to the contrary." Their names were sent to the procurator-fiscal at Stonehaven, who, having consulted the sheriff, thought the offence cognisable by the bailie, and it was remitted to him accordingly.

Andrew Watson, shoemaker, whose fondness for the gun was thus early manifested, came afterwards to be one of his successors in the office. He was eminently qualified in some respects, being well educated, and having already given evidence that he had the making of a good detective in him. His workshop was visited on one occasion by a beggar, who by aid of artificial signs indicated that he was deaf and dumb, and desired an alms. Suspicious of the applicant, and resolved on testing him, Andrew called to his wife in another apartment, "Annie, shut the outer door, an' bring my sharpin'-stane. Here's a dummy wi' plenty o' bawbees, an' naebody saw him come in. We'll do for him." Before the outer door could have been locked, the "deaf and dumb" man was on the safe side of it. He disposed of another case of imposition quite as summarily. A mendicant was pleading for a copper. "I wad hae gien you a penny, but I've naething less than a crown," was Andrew's reply, to be met with the whining response, "I'll cheenge it for you." "If you can cheenge a crown, you rascal, you're a richer man than mysel'!" was the ready answer.

Andrew was appointed burgh officer in June 1825, and he would have done credit to the office but for his besetting weakness. Six months after his appointment he had to be "reprimanded for being drunk and very riotous, to the disturbance of several families." He "appeared very penitent" when submitting to the rebuke, which was accompanied with a warning that a penalty of five shillings would be exacted "for each after-offence when unable to perform his duty." Whether or not the penalties became too frequent to leave an adequate remuneration, he demitted office in December 1828, and so ended his official life.

Andrew's future career was very much an open warfare with officialism, to which he entertained a hearty dislike. The establishment of the county police led to the appointment of David Clark, shoemaker, in 1839, as the first policeman in the village. It was sharply criticised by some; and Andrew, whether moved by regret at losing a brother tradesman, or only with the prospect of having to deal with him in a new capacity, gave vent to his feelings in the following lines:—

> "Davie Clark was ance a souter,
> O the muckle senseless footer!
> He's laid by his durks and daigers,
> And begun to bung the beggars."

He must have filled the office satisfactorily, however, for he was transferred to the metropolitan police, and gradually rose to some of the higher offices in connection.

Andrew was an incorrigible follower of sport in defiance of the game law. His love of the gun,

which led him early into trouble, became the means of wreck to himself and his family. Yet there was a soft place in his heart, when care was taken to find it. The grounds of Johnston had been included in his nocturnal raids, until the forbearance of the laird was worn out. Willing to give him another chance, he agreed to the factor's making a personal appeal to his feelings. Andrew was reminded of the kindness which the laird had shown himself and his family in a time of sore distress. It was urged upon him how poor a return he made, knowing that the laird was hurt by his conduct. He listened to the reproof, until tears stood in his eyes. Grasping the hand of the factor, he then solemnly promised that he would never again trespass on Johnston estate. And his promise was faithfully kept.

Alexander Mather was appointed in 1832 to the offices of burgh officer, sanitary officer, and bell-man. He was mainly responsible, moreover, for the preservation of peace in the burgh. He had a trying time of it, though the exercise of his authority seldom extended beyond the urchins of the village. The exceptions were on court-days, when he wore the red-collared-and-lapelled coat, and regulated the order of precedence among Rob Jack, Sandy Bennet, and other worthies from Luthermuir, at their quarterly meetings with the sheriff; or in emergencies such as public assemblies in the town-hall, when Sandy and his official garb were indispensable. It was not easy in ordinary times to maintain the precise order which he desired to prevail among the juveniles; but when snowball and sliding time came round, his difficulties were enormously increased. A dozen

youths would be snowballing or sliding, when the cry of "Sandy Mather" sent them pell-mell to the nearest close or lane, with Sandy and his barrow close at their heels. He never on such occasions parted with his barrow; and, within the memory of the oldest boy of any period, he never made a capture. When the barrow was out of the way, the bell was in hand; and the necessity for expedition prevented him from going farther than the mouth of the close in which the runaways were sure to take refuge. Yet Sandy was the source of wholesome dread in the breast of every boy and girl in the village. The mystery of what would happen, if he did catch anybody, exercised the same influence over the youthful mind of Laurencekirk, as the like mystery of what would follow the Speaker's naming of a member exercises in the House of Commons. It is insoluble now. But whatever dreadful thing it involved, it is an act of bare justice to record that, notwithstanding the vexations which he received and the threats he issued, Sandy Mather and his youthful charge were at heart not other than friends. He died in 1864, at the advanced age of eighty-two years.

PART THIRD.

NOTEWORTHY FAMILIES AND PARISHIONERS.

CHAPTER XXII.

CARNEGIES AT MILL OF CONVETH.

SEVERAL generations of a family named Carnegie were tenants on Mill of Conveth in the seventeenth century. The lands which they cultivated are understood to have been more extensive than the Mill-lands; and it is not unlikely that they had held for a time a lease of part of Whitesauch. They were probably relatives as well as namesakes of the proprietors of Pittarrow, as a strong intimacy is known to have existed between them.

John Carnegie was the first of the family of whom there is certain record. He was tenant in 1698, and there is reason to believe that he acted as factor on the Pittarrow estate. His family, so far as is known, consisted of two sons, David and John—and probably a daughter, Isabella, mother of David Lawson at Whitesauch. There is no record of his death.

David Carnegie, who was probably the younger son, succeeded his father in the tenancy prior to 1706, in which year his name is found in a parish record in connection with "Milen" of Conveth. Nothing further is known of himself or his family, though the wife of the third James Lawson at Ravenshaw, whose name was Carnegie, was probably his daughter. It may have been through this double family connection that the Lawsons first acquired the lease of Whitesauch.

John Carnegie, another son, and supposed to have been the eldest, through the interest of Margaret Carnegie obtained a lease of Ferrygate, a large farm on the estate of Dirleton, the laird of which was a minor, and Fletcher of Salton his curator. He had several sons: one of them, who had been in the East India Company's service, died without issue, leaving a large fortune, which was divided among his brothers.

John Carnegie, son of the tenant of Ferrygate, having graduated at the University of Edinburgh, studied for the Church, and was duly licensed. On the recommendation of the distinguished Dr Blair, he was presented to the charge of Inverkeillor, as assistant and successor, in 1755. The following year he became minister of the parish, and continued so till his death in 1805, in the eighty-second year of his age.

Alexander Carnegie, a son of the former, graduated at Marischal College and University, was appointed assistant and successor at Inverkeillor in 1799, and succeeded to the sole charge at his father's death. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Adam Skirving, author of the well-known song "Johnnie Cope." He

purchased the estate of Baldovie, near Montrose, and afterwards Redhall, in the parish of Fordoun. He died in 1836, aged seventy-four years.

John Carnegie succeeded his father in possession of Redhall, and for many years was a respected proprietor in the neighbourhood, in which his ancestors had long resided, and which his great-grandfather had left more than a century before his own connection with it was thus established. A daughter is the wife of John Dove Wilson, sheriff-substitute for the county. Mr Carnegie died in 1879.

Alexander Carnegie, Captain in the Forfar and Kincardine Militia, succeeded his father as laird of Redhall, and shortly afterwards retired from the service. He had previously been appointed factor to the Earl of Southesk, representative of the family who were patrons of his ancestors more than two centuries ago.

SHANK, OF THE VILLA.

For nearly a century the name of Shank has been a familiar and respected one in the parish. For six centuries it has been identified with Castlerig, an estate in Fifeshire. There is a tradition that Murdoch Schanks, the first owner of the lands, received them in 1315 as a reward for having found the body of Alexander III. among the cliffs at Kinghorn in 1286. The head of the family having died without issue, the estate passed by entail, executed in 1769, to the son of his cousin-german.

Alexander Shank, when he succeeded to the family inheritance, was minister of Ecclesgreig, or St Cyrus.

The family to which he belonged gave many of its sons to the ministry in the Church of Scotland. His grandfather had been minister of Drumoak, in Aberdeenshire. His father was minister, first of St Cyrus, and afterwards at Arbuthnott, where he died in 1780. An uncle, who died before completing his thirtieth year in 1744, had been four years one of the ministers of Brechin. A younger brother, John, who had commenced the study of the law, abandoned it for theology, and was presented to the parish of Arbuthnott on his father's death. His studies in divinity not having been completed, his settlement was effected by a special act of the General Assembly, and he died minister of Arbuthnott in 1818, in the seventieth year of his age.

Mr Shank demitted his ministerial charge in 1781, and took up his residence in Laurencekirk. His wife was Diana, daughter of Robert Scott of Dunninald, and their family consisted of two sons and two daughters. Diana, the elder, became the wife of Dr George Cook; and Jane died unmarried in 1840, much regretted by the poor who had long enjoyed her benefactions. Mr Shank died in 1814, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, and was survived by his wife until 1825, when she died aged eighty-four years.

Alexander Shank, the elder son, was a merchant in China. Having resolved to come home in 1818, he embarked on board a ship which had probably become a wreck in one of the gales for which that year was noted. Neither the ship nor its passengers were ever heard of again. Mr Shank was about his forty-fifth year when he met this unhappy fate.

Henry Shank, who succeeded his brother, entered

the service of the East India Company, of which he became a director, and for a term filled the honourable office of chairman. Through his influence many appointments in the service were obtained by young men in the parish and district. The summers of the latter portion of his life were spent at the Villa, and he was justly regarded as a public benefactor. A quiet retiring disposition, while it increased the respect in which he lived, did not hinder the offices of charity which endeared him to all living within the sphere of his influence. He died in 1860, aged eighty-one, and the representatives of his elder son now hold the patrimonial estate.

James Shank, the younger son, succeeded in possession of the Villa. A gentleman of culture and taste, he resembled his father alike in amiability of character and in the abundance of his charities. He was born at St Helena the same year in which his uncle was lost at sea. His mother and her family were coming home from India, when the ship in which they were was obliged by stress of weather to put into that island, and her younger son was born during their stay. He died in London in 1871, in the fifty-third year of his age.

Lady Sibbald Scott, her brother's successor in the Villa, is the wife of Sir James Sibbald David Scott of Dunninald and Sillwood Park, Baronet. His father, David Scott of Dunninald, succeeded in 1819 to the title and estates of his maternal uncle, who died without issue. Sir David died in 1851.

MRS TAYLOR.

The older residenters will still remember this stately old lady, whose husband had some interest in the bleach-field at Blackiemuir. She was distantly related to Lord Gardenstone, being descended from the Gardens of Midstrath. An ancestor had come with his family to Glenesk, where he acted as factor for his kinsman, Garden of Troup, who leased lands from the York Buildings Company. She was joint proprietrix with her sister, Miss Garden, of Grosefield, a small property near Brechin. Her husband had died comparatively young, and she passed a long widowhood in Laurencekirk. Her feu was that to the east of Farquhar Street; and Lord Gardenstone is said not only to have granted the feu, but to have erected at his own expense the considerable building upon it, which extended beyond the site of the present post-office.

Mrs Taylor was methodical in all her ways, and especially in reading the newspaper, which occupied a good many hours of the week. It was her practice to read it from beginning to end, column after column, and page after page, in regular succession. She was scrupulous in exacting respect from her neighbours, as one descended of the house of Garden, and a relation of the founder of the burgh. But withal, her cold and dignified manner was no formidable bar to the exercise of a kind and obliging disposition.

She rented a few acres of land to the west of Charters Avenue, which supported two cows and a donkey, and added to the responsibility of her faithful old servitrix, Lizzie Young, a native of Ferryden,

whose appearance was a singular contrast to that of her aristocratic mistress. The donkey was an object of interest to all the boys in the vicinity, who in their turn were subjects of much anxiety to Lizzie. A stolen gallop on the donkey's back was one of the most cherished ambitions, but dire was the reckoning with Lizzie when the intruder was caught in the act. The cows and the donkey shared with her mistress the affections of the faithful old servant, and it would have been difficult to decide to which of them all she was most deeply attached. The saddest event of her life was when her cows and donkey perished in one of the few conflagrations with which the burgh has been visited in its history.

Mrs Taylor died about 1840, and Lizzie did not long survive her.

BEATTIE LODGE AND THE BEATTIES.

The erection of Beattie Lodge, formerly Mains of Johnston, dates from the seventeenth century. It may have been built as a jointure-house by one of the Barclays of Johnston. A stone lintel above the kitchen-door bears the date of 1679, which was probably the year in which the oldest part of the building was erected. A century afterwards the more recent portion was added by Lord Gardenstone, who made it his residence when he visited the parish, the old mansion-house being for a number of years in the hands of a tenant. It was also the residence of his factor, David Beattie, from whom it may have derived its name. It is hardly surprising that, in

the minds of strangers, the ancient homestead with the familiar name of Beattie has robbed the poet's actual birthplace of its reputation. A ludicrous instance of the mistake is recorded.

Years after the death of Dr Beattie, an edition of his works was to be published by a London firm. An artist was sent from the British metropolis to make a sketch of the poet's birthplace, which was meant to adorn the title-page. He had sat patiently for the greater part of a day tracing the distinctive marks of Beattie Lodge, and the task was almost completed, when Alexander Stiven, in passing, entered into conversation with him, and revealed his mistake. Under the guidance of his informant he found his way to Borrowmuirhills, with the surroundings of which he seems to have been less favourably impressed than the youthful poet had been a century before. Judging from a professional point of view, he concluded that Beattie Lodge was the better subject for an artist's pencil, if not the fitter place for a poet to be born in. Sentiment prevailed over matter of fact, and he returned to finish the sketch which he had already begun.

The name of Beattie is almost bewildering to one who consults the parochial records of the eighteenth century. Nearly every farm in the parish was at one time or another in the hands of a Beattie, and several families of the name appear in the earliest records of the village. They had all probably come from one parent stem, though it is impossible to trace the relations which subsisted among the prominent members of the Beattie clan. There was indeed one universally-recognised distinction,—the whole bear-

ers of the name being divided between the "rich Beatties" and the "poor Beatties." The separation, however, was not absolute, for there was an occasional mingling of the two. A number of years ago, two ladies were discussing the Beattie descent, when one remarked to the other, "You may be nearer sib to the poet than I am, but I belong to the rich Beatties, and you come from the poor Beatties." "No, no," was the ready answer, "my grandmother was a poor Beattie, but my grandfather was a rich Beattie." The claim was frankly admitted: "Well, I grant, you have the better of me there."

Three lines of the parish Beatties may be traced with tolerable accuracy from the close of the seventeenth century. The first known progenitors of the three may have been brothers; and there is reason to believe that, for several generations before, the family had been settled on Mill of Haulkerton. The lands bearing that name were, for more than a quarter of a century, in possession of two tenants named Beattie. Margaret Beattie, wife of the first Alexander Cowie, was probably related to the family.

Of the branch who were longest in possession of the lease of Mill of Haulkerton, the first of whom anything very definite is recorded was John Beattie, who appeared at Stonehaven as a witness in regard to Episcopal meeting-houses in 1746. It is uncertain, however, which of two John Beatties, father and son, who were both zealous supporters of Episcopacy, was the witness at Stonehaven. Both were subsequently managers of the congregation. John Beattie, senior, died probably before 1760. In 1752 John Beattie, junior, acknowledged receipt from Mr Strachan

of £4, 4s. sterling, "for puting up of his house at Mill of Haulkertown." Receipts were also granted in connection with the same by Alex. Beattie of £3, 14s. Scots, "for locks and bands, &c.;" and by David Low of £2, 14s. 10d. sterling for the wright-work. John Beattie had two sons and a daughter. John, the elder son, born in 1752, was farmer, first at Drumforber, and afterwards at Drumsleed, where he died in 1821. His daughter Jean, born in 1762, became the wife of Robert Spark. He died about the close of the century. Alexander Beattie, the younger son, succeeded his father on Mill of Haulkerton. He was born in 1759. His wife was of a family named Lyall, tenants at Bent, one of whom, James Lyall, was for a period farmer at Burnton, from which he retired, and resided in the village until his death. His wife was a Watson of Scotston. Alexander Beattie died in 1807. John Beattie in due course succeeded his father on Mill of Haulkerton, and for a time held the lease of Kilnhill. He retired in 1860, and died in 1872. He had two sons, the younger of whom, James, is a supervisor of Inland Revenue in Edinburgh.

The line is still represented in the parish by Mrs Jane Beattie, wife of John Aymer, a daughter of the last of the race on Mill of Haulkerton.

The next to be noticed is the line to which the poet belonged. His father, James Beattie, was tenant at Mill of Haulkerton when ordained an elder of the parish in 1725. A sister, named Catherine, was the wife of Alexander Wysse, brother of David Wysse. Her youngest daughter, Mary Wysse, was married to James Dunn; and it was probably her daughter who

became the wife of Dr Beattie. Jean Watson, the wife of James Beattie, and mother of the poet, belonged to a family who were tenants for several generations on the farm of Scotston. She died at Beattie Lodge towards the close of the century. James Beattie died in 1742. David Beattie, the eldest son, born in 1724, assisted for some time in the management of Borrowmuirhills. He married the daughter of James Milne, schoolmaster, and for several years resided in the parish of Fordoun. Having been appointed factor by Lord Gardenstone, the remaining years of his life were passed at Beattie Lodge, where he died early in the century. His only son, James Beattie, born in 1767, a native of Fordoun, but educated at the school of Laurencekirk, was appointed in 1788 Professor of Civil and Natural History in Marischal College, and occupied the chair until his death in 1810. His widow and family removed to England. It was his custom for many years, on the day following the close of the session, to walk to Cairnbeg, in due time for breakfast with his relatives there. The family were distinguished for their pedestrian feats, his sister Catherine having walked the whole way to Edinburgh from Beattie Lodge. She excelled in the art of painting, and with her sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, gained considerable distinction in botany. The three sisters have been described as "venerable ladies, said to bear a striking resemblance to their celebrated uncle, with good features and black eyes." The favourite sister of the poet was Jean Beattie, the wife of John Valentine, shipmaster in Montrose. Their daughter, Margaret Valentine, superintended

her uncle's household, and was devoted to him as a child to a parent. She was married to Professor George Glennie, who succeeded Dr Beattie, and filled the chair of Moral Philosophy until his death in 1846. Their only surviving daughter is possessor of the famous picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Should the time come for its leaving possession of the family, to whom it was bequeathed by the illustrious subject, there could be no more fitting repository for the interesting relic than the St Laurence Hall in the place of his birth. Another sister of the poet became the wife of Thomas Doors, or Duirs, to whom the lease of the farm was transferred. She died while her two sons, David and James, were children. The former, soon after reaching manhood, was pressed on board a man-of-war, and taken prisoner in a naval engagement, and died in a French prison. James Duirs succeeded his father on the farm, which continued in the hands of his son David until the year 1863. James Duirs, the eldest son, is minister of the parish of Durris.

Alexander Beattie, who was nearly related to the poet's father, being probably his brother, was progenitor of the third line of Beatties. He was farmer at Mill of Rossie, Forfarshire, in 1736, about which time he removed to a holding on Mill of Haulkerton. He had afterwards a lease of the Inn at Laurencekirk. His children were Janet, born in 1701; James, in 1704; John, in 1706; David, in 1708; Alexander, in 1710; Elizabeth, in 17— ; Christian, in 1720; Jane and Robert. The eldest son, James, was probably minister of the parish of Maryton, James Beattie having been ordained minister of that

parish in 1738, and died in 1777. A watch, which was a remarkable piece of mechanism, and had a singular history, belonged to him, and is still in possession of the representative of the family. It had been the property of the laird of Caldhame, and was the means of convicting Randell Courteney, an Irishman, who, for a burglary at Caldhame Castle, was hanged at Randells Knap, near Fettercairn, in 1743. The watch was stolen afterwards from the Manse of Maryton, and was again the means of identifying the thief. It is now the property of Mr David Watson. It was probably while visiting this relative that Dr Beattie composed the lines inscribed on a tombstone in the churchyard of Lethnot, recording the death of two brothers, sons of John Leitch, an elder in the parish of Maryton:—

"O thou, whose reverential footsteps tread
These lone dominions of the silent dead,
On this sad stone a pious look bestow,
Nor uninstructed read the tale of woe;
And while the sigh of sorrow heaves thy breast,
Let each rebellious murmur be suppress'd.
Heaven's hidden ways to trace for thee how vain—
Heaven's just decrees how impious to arraign!
Pure from the stains of a polluted age,
In early bloom of life they left this stage;
Not doomed in ling'ring woe to waste their breath,
One moment snatched them from the power of death,
They lived united, and united died—
Happy the friends whom death cannot divide."

Alexander Beattie, the third son, was blacksmith at Middleton. He had a son, John, who succeeded him in the trade, and added to it the profession of veterinary surgeon—and a daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Robert Watson at Boghall.

John Beattie, at his death in 1821, was followed in possession by John Watson, who retired from the farm at Middleton in 1852.

Among the Beatties not known to have belonged immediately to any of the lines referred to, was John Beattie at Powburn, or more probably Bowtory, who also witnessed in regard to the Episcopal meeting-houses in 1746. It is not improbable that he was the son of Alexander Beattie, above mentioned. David Beattie was tenant at Spurriehillock about 1770, and had succeeded his father in occupation of the farm. His sister Euphemia was the wife of Alexander Beattie at Middleton. The Spurriehillock family were numbered among the "poor Beatties," of whom an elderly lady of the "rich" clan was wont to remark, "They're nae Beatties ava; they cam' o'er the Cairn, an' are jist Beattons."

CHAPTER XXIII.

COWIES AT HAULKERTON.

For a century and a half the Mains of Haulkerton was tenanted by successive members of a family who had probably been represented among the farmers of the parish for several generations before.

The first of whom there is authentic record was Alexander Cowie, who was born in the year 1630. In his boyhood he may have seen the "tua cartowis" whose transportation northward, according to Spald-

ing, was stayed at Haulkerton; or, still later, he may have witnessed the flight of Hurry and his soldiers from the troopers of the Marquis of Montrose. He was a man of good education, and for a number of years he was an elder of the parish. In addition to farming Mill of Haulkerton, which was probably his birthplace, he held the office of factor on the Haulkerton estate. His wife was Margaret Beattie, who is said to have been a daughter of David Beattie, who was probably the progenitor of the leading Beattie families in the parish. Alexander Cowie died in 1709, leaving a son to succeed him.

Alexander Cowie was appointed factor when his father resigned the situation. He was the first of the family who was tenant of Mains, having obtained a second lease of that farm in 1710. He had formerly been joint occupant with his father of Mill of Haulkerton; and, in 1697, he had married Janet Fullerton, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. In the earliest existing records of the kirk-session he appears as an elder of the parish, and for a few years his father and he were together members of the session. During the rebellion of 1715, when Church property was liable to be carried off by the rebels, he was intrusted with the church money and records for safe-keeping. An anecdote is recorded of him, which may refer to the time of the Lord Haulkerton who was somewhat peculiar in his ways. His lordship's cattle were frequent trespassers on the farm of Mains, and the noble lord was not a ready reckoner for the damage which they caused. A little ingenuity was required to convict him of his liability. On one occasion Mr Cowie reported that

an ox of his had been trespassing on the grounds of the Castle, and had killed a cow belonging to his lordship. "Well, Alexander, you must pay for the cow." "But," retorted the factor, "it was your lordship's ox that killed my cow." Tradition does not add how his lordship received the amended information, but "just like Haulkerton's cow" was long a proverb in the district, applied to anything the opposite of what it was described to be.

James Cowie was the next occupant of Mains. He was a younger son of Alexander, and was born in 1707. He had been bred a merchant, and was some time in London, and afterwards in Holland. He had probably gone to Holland in company with a younger son of the fifth Lord Falconer, who was of about the same age, and who had long been settled in that country when he succeeded to the peerage. On the death of his elder brother, James Cowie returned home, about 1730 or shortly after; and, at the decease of his father, he entered on the tenancy of the farm, which he held until his death, which occurred in 1782. He was a man of considerable ability and scholarship, as appears from documents still existing, such as wills, roup-rolls, &c., which he had drawn up, and in the execution of which he was largely employed. There is an interesting relic belonging to him in possession of his grandson, which indicates that travelling was in his day a matter of frequent difficulty. It is a long pole which had been used for leaping. There were few bridges over the waters and brooks in those days, and they were frequently crossed by means of leaping-sticks. Haulkerton Bridge, in a temporary way, had been built in

his father's time, about 1723. A wooden bridge was erected in 1760, and the present bridge in 1775.

He was followed in the occupancy of the farm by his son, David Cowie, who was born in 1756. In his day the men of the Mearns were distinguished for physical strength, and David Cowie was reckoned a champion among the strongest. An illustration of his prowess has been recorded. Towards the end of the century an English boxer was exhibiting his feats at Laurence Fair. Having made some successful assaults and produced a good deal of terror, he at length challenged the market to produce its best man. Mr Cowie quietly walked up to the bully, took hold of him with the utmost coolness, and threw him headlong into a convenient whin-bush. The discomfited pugilist gathered himself up quickly, and took to his heels, followed with the jeers of the delighted spectators. But though endowed with this quality, which was greatly prized at the time, and willing to use the physical gift when occasion served, Mr Cowie was a peaceable man, of an amiable character, and much respected by his neighbours. For a number of years he was one of the most esteemed elders in the parish. It was in his lifetime (1805) the present farmhouse at Mains was built; and the stones were taken chiefly from the ruins of Pittarrow Castle, the unfortunate demolition of which has been referred to elsewhere. It may be interesting to notice that this was the first farmhouse in the parish floored with deal-wood. Even at that comparatively recent date carpets and hearth-rugs were unknown; and it has been alleged that the first sofa that came to the parish did not make its appearance until twenty years afterwards. Mr Cowie

died in 1813, leaving by his wife, Catherine Barclay, two sons and a daughter. The daughter was married to Alexander Smart, writer in Stonehaven, who was a native of the parish, being the son of James Smart, tenant of Powburn. David Cowie, the younger son, began a successful career as an agriculturist on the farm of Kilnhill. He was subsequently well known in the agricultural world as the enterprising farmer of Brae of Pert, and Dysart in the parish of Maryton. He inherited much of the physical strength for which his father had been distinguished; yet the last few years of his life were passed in great feebleness and suffering. He resigned the farm of Dysart in consequence, and a few months afterwards died at Montrose, in April 1874.

James Cowie, the eldest son, who was born in April 1807, after being educated at Mr Thomson's school and the Montrose Academy, and having served some time in a solicitor's office, took up his residence on the farm. With a view to self-improvement, he went to England in 1828, and wrought as a field-labourer. Two years afterwards he entered himself as a student in the Royal Veterinary College of London, where he gained considerable distinction in the class of Professor Youatt. He took his diploma as veterinary surgeon, and is now a member of Council, and of the Board of Examiners of the Royal Veterinary College.

On finishing his curriculum at college, he returned to Mains of Haulkerton and the sole charge of the farm. Mr Cowie was soon known as a profuse writer on agricultural subjects. The Highland Agricultural Society having offered two gold medals for the best

drawing of plans for large and small farms respectively, Mr Cowie entered into the competition, and was successful in obtaining both medals. This led to his selection by the editors of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' and 'Chambers's Encyclopædia' as a contributor to those works on various subjects connected with agriculture.

In 1862 Mr Cowie retired from the farm, which had been in the occupation of his family for more than a century and a half. The following year he entered on his present farm of Sundridge Hall, Kent, and has since devoted himself with increased diligence to the pursuits of his earlier life.

Mr Cowie has been an active honorary member of the Society for Protection of Animals liable to Vivisection. His zeal in the interests of this Society has led to his designation as the "Howard of the animal world." Accompanied by his daughter as his interpreter, he visited various parts of the Continent within the last few years as a delegate, to inquire into the system of experimental operations on horses in veterinary colleges. In this mission he carried with him the approval of Government, through whose influence he gained access to statesmen and other influential persons, and succeeded, it is understood, in effecting considerable results in mitigating the treatment to which the poor animals have been cruelly subjected.

Among the works which have come from the pen of Mr Cowie, and appear in separate form, may be mentioned, 'An Address to Farm-Labourers,' 1874; 'Rabies, or Madness in the Dog,' 1876; 'A Sketch of Seasons, Crops, and Prices from Early Times,' 1878;

'Reminiscences of the Medical and Veterinary Arts;' 'Farm Buildings, Past and Present,' 1879, &c.

LAWSONS AT POWBURN, WHITESAUCH, ETC.

Lawson is an old name in Scotland. One of its earliest possessors on record was Richard Lawson, canon of St Giles's, in Edinburgh, and laird of Grothill in 1370. Another Richard Lawson was laird of Hariggs, the lands in Edinburgh where Heriot's Hospital stands. He was appointed Lord Justice-Clerk about 1488; and his wife's name is still preserved in the designation of a narrow street to the west of the Hospital, known as Lady Lawson's Wynd. His descendants were the Lawsons of Cairnmuir, in Peeblesshire. No connection is known to have subsisted between this family and the Lawsons of the parish, but it is a striking coincidence that the leading Christian names of both families have been identical. Richard, James, and John were the prevailing names of the Lawsons of Cairnmuir for more than 300 years, just as they have prevailed in the family connected with Laurencekirk. It is curious also to find that William became a family name about the time when the first Lawson, who was so named, appeared in the parish. The laird of Cairnmuir during the last quarter of the sixteenth century was James Lawson, and his wife was Elizabeth, daughter of William Scott of Mountbougar. It is by no means improbable that a younger son of this marriage settled in the Mearns, and was the progenitor of the Lawson family.

William Lawson, in Powburn, before his death in 1646, mortified "300 merks to the kirk of Convay," the principal to remain in the hands of the kirk-session of Montrose. The laird of Powburn was at the time provost of that burgh. William Lawson was also the owner of lands in the parish of Glenbervie, as appears from the following retour: "*September* 3, 1647.—Jacobus Lasoun in Polburne, hæres Willielmi Lasoun in Polburne patris — in villis et terris de Lagevin, Blanerno [Blairerno] molendino ejusdem Badevene Colden [Cowden] in baronia de Glenbervie." While James, the eldest son, acquired the estate, a younger son, David, succeeded his father as tenant of Powburn.

David Lawson had a son, William, whose death is recorded on the family tombstone. His own death occurred in 1670, at the age of fifty-two. The inscription on a flat slab in the churchyard of Garvock, in all probability, refers to another son of David: "Here lyes Rechert Lason, husband to Isebal Young, sumtym in Mil of Garvock, who departed Februarie the 17, 1723, and of age –7 yeares."

It is probable that another son of David Lawson at Powburn was James Lawson at Ravenshaw, who was the first known progenitor of the more recent family of Lawsons. It has been asserted that his wife was a daughter of David Wysse, but of this there is no assurance. His eldest son, James, was farmer, first at Mains of Brigton, and afterwards at Ravenshaw. He married Isabella Carnegie, who was probably a daughter of John Carnegie at Mill of Conveth; and it is understood that he had an interest also in the farm of Whitesauch. He was succeeded

on Ravenshaw by his eldest son, James, who is known to have been farmer there in 1756. His second son, David, is the first of whom the parish records take notice.

David Lawson had been farmer at Whitesauch before 1760, when he was ordained an elder in the parish. A renewal of his lease, signed at Inglismaldie by Lord Haulkerton and himself, is dated 1778; and there is also in existence a renunciation of the same lease in 1780, similarly signed. His wife was Isabella Christie, and their family consisted of five sons and four daughters. The eldest son, David, was a purser in the Royal Navy, in which the third son, John, was advanced to the rank of captain. Captain Lawson married Catherine, only daughter of James Badenach of Whiteriggs, and had a large family, of whom Isabella, the second daughter, was married to Alexander Stuart of Laithers, and the eldest son of this marriage is the present laird.

Of the other members of the Whitesauch family, Alexander, the fourth son, spent his latter years in Laurencekirk; and Richard, the youngest son, became farmer, first at Spurriehillock, and afterwards at Keilburn, where he died in 1855, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He married Elizabeth Milne, and had two daughters, the younger of whom, Ann, became the wife of Robert Crabb, burgh clerk. Jean, the youngest daughter of David Lawson, was married to George Milne, and their descendants have long been resident in Laurencekirk.

CROLLS AT HILL OF HAULKERTON.

The name of Croll has been a prevalent one in the Mearns for several centuries. There have been three families of the name long connected with the parish, among whom no relationship is known to have existed. One of the families were successive tenants on Powburn and Haddo, and the members of another were long resident on the estate of Johnston. The present representative of the third family is the only farmer in the parish in occupancy of the lands which have been held by his ancestors for more than a century. The family came originally from the parish of Fordoun, and probably the following epitaph records the names of their progenitors:—

"Heir lyes a faithfvl brother Thomas Crol, vho departed the 27 of April 1678, of age 81; and his spovs Christian Covy, de Ap. 28, 1668, ag. 72:—

> "Theirs non in qvestion this will call,
> Which I write on their dvst,
> That to the poor they liberall,
> And wer to all men jvst."

It is not unlikely that Christian Covy (Cowie) had been aunt to the first Alexander Cowie whose name appears in connection with Haulkerton. Robert Croall at Craigmoston may have been their son, and he is the first known progenitor of the Crolls of Easthill. The well-known family of coach-builders in Edinburgh are also understood to have descended from the Croalls at Craigmoston.

Robert Croall, who had been previously farmer at Coullie, settled on Northhill in the last quarter of

the seventeenth century. His wife was Margaret Austine. It was some time before he became reconciled to the change; and when his son was born, he was wont to justify his partiality for his former residence by declaring that the very infant in his mother's arms cried, "Coullie, Coullie," yet. His name appears as an elder in 1702, and probably he died within a few years of that date.

John Crole had succeeded his father previous to 1730, when he was ordained an elder. His wife was Margaret Beattie from Mill of Mondynes, and they had an only son, George, who became tenant of Easthill. After the death of her husband, Margaret Beattie married Henry Peat. Their son, John Peat, born in 1748, succeeded to the tenancy of Northhill, which he held until his death in 1835, and which continued in possession of a daughter for several years. One son was for a lengthened period farmer at Burnton, and another lately retired from Westerton of Pittarrow, now in the hands of his son, William Peat.

George Croll, on reaching manhood, entered on a lease of Easthill. He was twice married, first to Jane Carnegie, from Droniemyre, and afterwards to her cousin, Jane Clark, from Brawliemuir. The second wife was a stanch Berean, and member of the congregation at Sauchieburn. She was a rigid Jacobite notwithstanding, and named one of her sons after the Prince. David Croll, a son of the first marriage, was long a well-known builder, and an elder in the parish of Marykirk. Other members of the family were William, who farmed at Laurencekirk; Alexander, a lawyer in Edinburgh,

who died in early manhood; and John, tenant of Oatyhill, whose son, Charles, was a surgeon in practice in the village; and a daughter, the wife of William Murray at Laurencemuir.

James Croll succeeded his father as tenant of Easthill, and held possession only for a few years, when he died in 1818, unmarried.

Charles Croll was born in 1776. When a young man, he was appointed grieve to Samuel Laing of Papdale, in Orkney, father of the present Samuel Laing, M.P. for the counties of Orkney and Shetland. He married, in 1815, his master's niece, the daughter of Robert Laing, an Indian merchant. On the death of his brother, he became tenant of Easthill, to which the lands of Westhill were subsequently added. Charles Croll died in 1859, and was survived by his wife until 1865.

James Croll, on the death of his father, succeeded to the management, and three years afterwards to the lease, of the farm. He married a daughter of John Peat, Westerton of Pittarrow.

CHAPTER XXIV.

PORTRAITS BY A DUTCH ARTIST.

The interesting collection of portraits of original feuars and others, which are hung in a room of the Gardenstone Arms Hotel, was procured at the instance of Lord Gardenstone. They were executed

by a Dutch artist named Brich (pronounced like the first syllable of Brechin), who was brought to the village by his lordship, and employed for that purpose. His salary was twenty pounds a-year, with the condition that his spare hours might be applied to taking likenesses on his own account. The collection consists of twenty-one portraits, including one of the artist himself. When his work in the burgh was accomplished, Mr Brich removed to Edinburgh, and exercised his gifts as a teacher of drawing.

It may be interesting to append a list of the subjects of the portraits, with a brief account of such of them as are not noticed elsewhere. For information of the others, the reader is referred to the undernoted pages: David Beattie, p. 173; John Scott, schoolmaster, p. 147; Bailie Gairdyne, p. 145; Alexander Smart, p. 146; John Dallas, p. 158; Mrs Cruickshank and William Cream, ch. xlii.; John Skae, stampmaster, p. 139.

Mr Badenach.—Johnston is given as the residence of Mr Badenach at the time the portraits were taken, 1790-91; and, though the tenant of the old mansion-house was Dr Leith, he may have resided there for a period. Ultimately he took the feu nearly opposite Farquhar Street, now possessed by John Reid, mason, and erected the cottage which still occupies the site, and in which he continued to reside until his death. The family to which he belonged are said to have been connected with the Barclays of Johnston.

He was the brother of Dr James Badenach of Whiteriggs, grandfather of Mr Badenach Nicolson of Glenbervie. The wife of Dr Badenach was Ann

Graham, daughter of the laird of Morphie, who was originally a Barclay of Balmakewan, and assumed the name of Graham on succeeding to the Morphie estate. Another daughter was Lady Arbuthnott, grandmother of the present Viscount; and a third daughter became the wife of James Duncan, who for a time kept a small school in Laurencekirk, but was subsequently appointed master of the grammar-school of Aberdeen, an office for which his scholarship well qualified him. James Graham, the son of William Graham, who succeeded his father on the estate, was also resident in the village for a number of years previous to his death, which was the result of an accident near Dunkeld. His grandson is the present laird of Morphie.

Mr Dewar, Aberdeen.—This name is found on the back of one of the portraits. It is probable, however, that a clerical mistake has occurred in renewing the inscription, which has been done on several occasions. It is more likely to be the portrait of Mr Ewen, a goldsmith in Aberdeen, who was on terms of friendship with Lord Gardenstone. He was connected with the parish by birth, and was a frequent visitor for many years. His presence at the convivial and other meetings of the council is occasionally recorded. It is understood that he had acquired a large fortune by trade.

John Rae, manufacturer. — The grandfather of Bailie Rae, a native of Lumphanan, settled in the village in the early period of its existence as a burgh. For many years, when hand-loom weaving was the principal means of manufacture, he conducted a considerable business, which, previous to his death in

1845, was transferred to his son, the father of Bailie Rae. Though neither father nor son took any prominent part in public matters, the industry of both in their successive terms as burgesses has had its share in advancing the prosperity of the burgh.

John Silver, baker.—Among the tradesmen who were attracted to the village by the inducements held out by Lord Gardenstone, one of the earliest was John Silver. He was probably a native of the district, in which the surname was not uncommon, but he came directly from London, and acquired that feu near the Free Church on which he erected the house with the gable to the street. He there established his bakehouse. His early experience was not encouraging. Two pecks of flour in the week made bread enough to supply all the demands of his customers. He was one of the first councillors. He was the grandfather of the late David Silver, mason, and his descendants are still found in the burgh.

Peter Ramsay, mason.—He was one of the early feuars, having acquired the feu west of Farquhar Street. The double cottage which he erected on the site has given place to the more substantial building which now occupies it. One of his daughters became the wife of Lieutenant Scott, R.N., farmer at Keilburn, and another was married to a son of James Niddrie, tenant of Honeyhive. The latter was in possession of her father's property until her death, which occurred about 1840. Her only son, Peter Niddrie, having embraced the medical profession, received an appointment as surgeon in the Royal Navy. He retired from the service shortly before his death, which took place a number of years ago.

William Rew, tailor.—William Rew was a native of the parish, and his father, who had been church officer, died in 1791. He was the father of Robert Rew, long a house-carpenter in the village. His daughter Jane, who for many years kept a sewing-school, died in 1877, at the advanced age of ninety-five years, having been born in the second year of the existence of the burgh. Some of William's relatives were stanch Bereans. Mrs Callum, his niece, was one of the latest adherents. She died about 1851, leaving two mortifications, of which the parish minister and others are the trustees,—one of £45, the interest of which is for educational purposes in the burgh; and the other, the interest of £135, for gratuitous distribution of the Holy Scriptures, without respect to religious denomination.

John Charles, tailor.—His feu was that immediately to the east of Lord Colvill's. John was a prominent Episcopalian, and one of the patrons, *jure devoluto*, in the appointment of a successor to Bishop Watson. His daughter was married to James Jack, who died many years ago, but he has no surviving descendant in the parish. A grandson, Alexander Jack, is resident in Arbroath.

James Hay. — He was a mason by trade, and had the feu on which the properties of Messrs Young, butcher, and Watt, tailor, are situated. His daughter was married to a young man named Macintosh, who, shortly after the marriage, enlisted, and was absent from the village a number of years. In the absence of her husband Mrs Macintosh went into service. While she was serving in the Gardenstone Arms, a military officer came into the hotel

and inquired after her. She was shown into his presence, expecting probably to receive some account of her husband, of whom no tidings had been heard in the interval. Her surprise may be imagined when, after a brief interview, she recognised him in the stranger. He had acquitted himself bravely as a soldier, and been raised to the rank of lieutenant. She survived her husband many years, occupying the house which she had inherited from her father, and enjoying the pension of an officer's widow until her death, which took place about thirty years ago. Their only son had removed from the parish many years before.

James Murray.—He was owner of a feu in the west end of the village, and a daughter died in the house situated upon it some years ago.

Robert Trail.—He was not a feuar, but a labourer or hedger on the estate of Johnston, occupying a house near the west gate. He had a daughter named Tibbie Trail, whose achievements in the use of spade and mattock eclipsed those of many masculine competitors. Tibbie became the wife of John Gray, forester and gamekeeper to Mr Farquhar of Johnston.

Lord Colvill.—Lord Gardenstone's manuscript contains an entry of date 1768: "Mr Algow [Auldjo] informed me that Torryburn coal, belonging to Peter Colvill, Esq., is the most frugal and proper for the brick manufactory." The transactions following upon this information may have led to the settlement in the burgh of Robert Colvill, otherwise Lord Colvill of Ochiltree. When he settled is unknown; but it must have been before 1786, when he availed

himself of the privilege of a burgess, the election of councillors that year being made "in presence of Lord Colvill and a committee of burgesses," and the minute of election subscribed "Colvill." His feu was opposite the entrance to Blackiemuir Avenue, and he built upon it the two-storey house now the property of George Ross, auctioneer. Though without the ordinary pretensions of a nobleman's mansion, it had probably been the most pretentious dwelling-house in the village of its period. The front wall was adorned for a number of years with what was not common in those days, a public clock, which must have been an object both of utility and of admiration to the inhabitants. It is understood to have been his own workmanship; and two interesting relics of his handiwork are still in existence. One is a figure of Cupid, which ornamented the clock, and is in possession of Andrew Wood, slater. The other is a dial, on a handsome freestone pillar, with copper plate and index, bearing the inscriptions, "Made by Ld. Colvill, 1787," and "Lord Gardenston founded the village of Laurencekirk, 1769." The dial is in the garden attached to the property of John Bruce, house-painter.

The fact of Lord Colvill's portrait having a place among the sketches by Brich implies that he was still resident in 1790. The original title-deed of his house was lost, and a tack was granted by Colonel Garden, in 1799, to James Jamieson, late merchant in Montrose, and Elizabeth Christie, his wife. Lord Colvill had either died or removed from the village previous to that date. And in a renewed tack of the ground to John Balfour in 1814, con-

firming the one granted to Mr Jamieson, there is reference to "the late Lord Colvill," making it certain that he had not survived that year.

The family of Colvill have long been influential in Fifeshire. Two peerages were conferred on separate branches,—Lords Colvill of Culross, and Lords Colvill of Ochiltree. It is a curious coincidence that, while four successive representatives of the Culross family refused to assume the title to which their right was never disputed, in the other family there were two successive claimants to the lordship of Ochiltree whose title seems to have been very questionable. When Robert, third Lord Colvill of Ochiltree, died without issue, David, son of William Colvill, tenant at Balcormie Mill in Fife, claimed to be the nearest lawful heir-male. He never voted at the election of representative peers, but he was allowed to bear the title unchallenged. He died in London unmarried, in 1782.

Robert Colvill, his cousin, son of John Colvill, wright at Elie, in Fife, put in his claim, and assumed the title of Lord Colvill of Ochiltree. His claim was based on the allegation that he was grandson of James Colvill, a younger brother of the second Lord. He was served heir to Robert, third Lord Colvill of Ochiltree, on the 7th April 1782. His vote at the election of peers passed unchallenged in 1784, and again in 1787. At a contested election in 1788, two nominees ran so close that every effort was made to challenge the opposing votes. It resulted in the production of evidence that Robert Colvill had no just claim to the title which he had

assumed. It was proved to the satisfaction of the House of Lords that his grandfather was Arthur Colvill, at Milltown of Pitmullie. His counsel admitted his own conviction that there had been no such person as the James Colvill whose existence had been alleged; but he entered a plea, reserving his right to produce whatever further evidence might be available in the interests of his client.

James Lawrence.—Another worthy in the early annals of the burgh was James Lawrence, better known as Charters, a name which survives in Charters Avenue and Charters Square, part of which was the site of his residence. He came from Charterstanes, in Fordoun, where he had carried on his trade as a blacksmith; and he followed that trade for a number of years in the village. By-and-by he opened a public-house, which was afterwards long held by George Wallace. Whether he had pursued other avocations meanwhile, and been disappointed —or whether he had been given to frequent flittings, and had resolved at length to settle down— does not appear; but on his sign-board there was the following inscription:—

> '1778: James Lawrence's last shift.
>
> 1780: James Lawrence is my name,
> From Charterstanes I lately came,
> British spirits for to sell,
> But ale and porter is far better I think mysel'."

Such may have been the theory of Charters in regard to liquids, but he is understood in practice to have shown a preference for the British spirits, and been one of the most regular imbibers of his own

whisky. He had a custom of firing a salute at every marriage-party which passed his door. He was expecting a marriage on one occasion, and had the gun in readiness. Being informed by some mischievous wag that it was approaching—when, in fact, a funeral was coming along—he rushed out of the smithy, fired among the astonished party, exclaiming, "Hurrah, my bucks!" wheeled round, and was off before he discovered the mistake. "Hurrah, my bucks, quo' Charters!" was the Laurencekirk version of "Hail, fellows, well met!" for many years afterwards. He was a member of the second council of the burgh, which was elected in 1783.

Charters is still remembered by some of the older inhabitants, who are agreed as to the fact of his having been a somewhat "bumptious" individual, not given to mince his words, especially when in his cups, and having slight regard to social distinctions. He had shown incivility one day to the minister, who asked him if he knew whom he was addressing. "Oh yes," was the ready reply; "Dr George Cook, my servant once a-week, and oftener if I call upon him." He had retired from the public-house a few years previous to his death, which took place about 1817.

CHAPTER XXV.

DR FORDYCE.

James Fordyce, surgeon, preacher of the Gospel, and burgh clerk, was an important personage in Laurencekirk for the first quarter of the century. He was a native of the parish of Newhills; and when he settled in the village, he probably succeeded Dr Charles Walker, a medical practitioner, who built the cottage which was latterly possessed by Bailie Scott, who purchased it from his widow. Dr Fordyce occupied a humble tenement nearly opposite the Episcopal Chapel, consisting of a but and ben. Some articles of his furniture were unique, though not rare and costly. His sole fender consisted of two "kail-runts," placed before the fire at a proper angle. They did not last long, but they had the advantage of being easily renewed, and they were cheap, which was a considerable recommendation in the doctor's eyes. His establishment was superintended by Tyndall, his housekeeper, whose Christian name, Margaret, he entirely ignored, either in referring to her or in addressing herself. His appearance has thus been described from recollection of the man: "He kept no conveyance, was never in a hurry, and his dress consisted of an old hat, with, fair day and foul, a glazed cover over it, which did not fit very closely; a white napkin twisted round his neck like a rope; a blue swallow-tailed coat, with the buttons covered with the cloth; and a 'spencer'

—that is, the body of a coat without tails or buttons behind. The doctor's outfit was completed by drab knee-breeches, very rough-ribbed woollen stockings, shoes, and black gaiters which came half-way up his legs." This dress did service alike at kirk and market, at christening and funeral. He powdered his hair like the notables of his day; but to save expense, he applied the powder only to the front of his head. This gave him a grotesque appearance, especially in the pulpit. His hair was naturally a jet black, and every movement of his head presented a singular effect—the front sparkling with powder, and the back dark as a crow.

The doctor was characterised by a brusque and somewhat uncouth manner, and his conversation was wont to be more forcible than polite. When dining at the manse, this characteristic had shown itself in a way which was offensive, and Dr Cook availed himself of the first opportunity to drop a hint on the subject. Walking in the garden after dinner, the minister said, "Don't you think, doctor, you spoke rather strongly, and were a little rude to Mrs Cook to-day?" "Yes, yes, sir; but you know she was speaking perfect buff,"—and he proceeded to vindicate himself, utterly unconscious that he had violated any rule of courtesy in addressing a lady as he would have spoken to a medical brother in hot disputation.

His practice was extensive; but he was never much disposed to over-exertion. He was a bad horseman, and his services could not always be secured even by despatching a horse to bring him. A young man came with all speed to call him to a

case of emergency at Pittarrow, the arrangement being that the doctor was to proceed on the messenger's horse. For a while the young man was plied with questions, without receiving any pledge that his errand would be successful. He was on the street, holding the reins of the horse, on which, from time to time, he entreated the doctor to mount. It happened that a band of musicians were coming along the street, and as they approached, playing with all their might, the doctor protracted the conversation, keeping his eye meanwhile on the horse. At length, when the last of the musicians had passed, and not even the big drum had disturbed the equanimity of the animal, the doctor turned to the messenger, and said, "Yes, yes, lad; I'll go with you. That's a quiet beast." On another occasion he was sent for, at a somewhat untimeous hour, to a house which he did not care to visit. The patient, on whose behalf he had been summoned, was sitting at the fireside, apparently a stout healthy woman. One or two neighbours were present, but their dolor made no impression on the mind of the physician, who at once satisfied himself there was nothing to apprehend, and little requiring sympathy. He went no farther than the door, looked at the patient for a moment, and marched off, curtly remarking, "You should blood that heap."

In 1804 an assistant and successor was to be appointed to the minister of Garvock, and Dr Fordyce was a candidate. Rightly or not, he believed that Dr Leslie of Fordoun had made an erroneous statement regarding him, which had militated against his appointment. Strong and persistent in his dislikes,

he bore him a grudge ever after, and never missed an opportunity of disparaging "leein' Jamie," as he irreverently designated the respected minister of Fordoun. John Glennie, brother of Professor Glennie, who was the successful candidate, came in for a share of his prejudice, and for the further distinction of being named "the lang fiddler of Garvock." The doctor frequently supplied the pulpit at Laurencekirk, but never attained the character of a popular preacher. To do him justice, however, he was not ambitious of that reputation. When complimented for having preached better than usual, he quietly remarked, "Yes, yes; it was none the worse of me, at any rate." On one occasion a thunder-cloud came over the church, and made it so dark that he could not see his manuscript, and had to pause for a while. He was afterwards complimented on his good management, when he observed, "Yes, yes: you see, I had presence of mind to put my finger to the place, and kept it there; but if 'leein' Jamie' had been in sic a fix, Lord pity him!"

On another occasion he had difficulty in finding the book from which his text was taken; and after the service, the matter being referred to, he remarked, "Yes, yes; confound that fellow Deuteronomy, I thought he'd fled the Bible!"

In 1810, Dr Fordyce succeeded Mr Scott in the office of clerk to the burgh. There is a significant interpolation in the minute recording the election. Originally it had stood, "who accepted said office *ad arbitrium*, and upon the same terms as last year," implying that his tenure of office was to be *at the pleasure of the council*. Between "*arbitrium*" and "and"

the word "*suum*" is interpolated, altering the sense to the effect that he held office *at his own discretion*. The interpolated word is perhaps explained by a note appended to a minute of 1st December 1817, in which it was proposed to reduce the salary of the clerk: "I object to any reduction of wages, as my original agreement in June 1810 was for £2, 10s. a-year, *and that there should be no new election*. I shall, however, concur with the council or the public at large in a contribution for lessening the public debt. —(Signed) James Fordyce, clerk." To the same effect is the closing sentence of a letter which he addressed to the council in 1819: "I therefore beg that you will intimate to me, by the town officer, the time of your next meeting, that I may enter my protest against your conduct, *should you proceed to the election of a new clerk*." Whether the worthy clerk had interpolated the "*suum*" to meet such an emergency, or when it occurred to him to use such a precaution, does not appear; but the doctor was not a man likely to forfeit the character of a "canny Aberdonian" by neglecting to look after "*suum*" in the shape of his own interests.

But his comments on the business, which it was his official duty to record, were not all on matters relating to himself. Some of them were curious, and characteristic of the man. In 1813 he makes an *addendum* to the effect that "the conduct of John Skae, late controller, in opposing a settlement of the water dispute by arbiters, has thrown a temporary stigma on the office of a controller." That dispute agitated the minds of the burgh for the next three years, and the issue was duly chronicled as a "most

deplorable" one. The lawsuit to which it gave rise ended in the defeat of the burgh; and the moral of the whole affair was appended to the minute of 22d February 1816, in words not unworthy of the attention of intending litigants: "The late Lord Gardenstone used to say, if you wish to have a common-sense decision, consult any honest old woman in the Mearns; but if you wish for a capricious and absurd sentence, apply to the Court of Session. *Of this Court his lordship was a member.*" The italicised form is not in the original, and italics are hardly needed to emphasise the pawky humour of making the words of the "late worthy founder" of the burgh recoil upon the Supreme Court of which he was an acknowledged ornament.

One of the doctor's immediate neighbours was a villager who "kept a cow and no land," with whom he was in a state of chronic contention. Her cow had been long understood to graze at the expense of the burgh, not with the burgh's approval, but greatly to her own satisfaction. The long-enjoyed privilege was not likely to be quietly surrendered by one who had the reputation of having not only a will of her own, but a faculty of expressing it in pretty forcible terms. Proceedings were at length taken against her, and she was summoned to appear at the burgh court. Even in the hearing of their honours she threatened to break down with an axe a certain gate which had been put up, avowedly for the exclusion of her cow from a piece of ground to which she had asserted a claim.

The following *N.B.* to the minute recording her appearance is a suggestive commentary upon the

private bickerings which had passed between them: "This lady has been always famous for the application of club law; and it would appear that she is equally dexterous in the science of ax law."

The next quotation may be given as an example of the clerk's dexterity in framing a minute in vindication of his own official dignity: "*May* 5, 1817.—No public business came before them, unless an irregular petition from twenty-five burgesses, claiming a share of the spare water from the fountain-well, can be reckoned such. As it did not come through the clerk's hands, it was rejected; it also contained improper language."

But it was in his last will and testament that the shrewd practical sense of Dr Fordyce came out in strongest relief. His thrifty living and saving habits had enabled him to accumulate a goodly sum, the residue of which was left to certain legatees. To insure a peaceful settlement, a proviso was added that his residuary legatees were bound to accept the statement of executory accounts tendered to them, without production of any vouchers. If they refused to do so, and "employed any lawyer, or other troublesome person," he empowered his executors to "put the whole money into their own pockets, and give no account to anybody." It needs hardly be added that the estate was wound up very quietly.

Dr Fordyce died in 1833, and was buried in the churchyard of his native parish, Newhills.

CHAPTER XXVI.

CHARLES STIVEN AND SON.

Many years ago an Aberdonian in India met an Englishman, who asked him if Aberdeen was in Scotland. Being informed that it was, he rejoined, "Oh, you come from Scotland; do you know a Mr Laurence Kirk who makes snuff-boxes?" The man, to whose ingenuity is due the world-wide fame which has so long connected the name of Laurencekirk with the manufacture of snuff-boxes, was Charles Stiven. He was born in the parish of Glenbervie in 1753, and was a name-son of the young Pretender. His father was spoken of as a "gryte Jacobite," and the principles implied in that distinction seem to have been engrafted in the family.

When the Duke of Cumberland had destroyed the Episcopal Chapel at Stonehaven, the members of the persuasion were in the practice of meeting for divine service in the house of Jean Stiven, who in all probability was a sister of the father. It was unlawful for more than five persons over and above the household so to meet; and an evasion of the law was attempted by the permitted number assembling in a room, with a clergyman officiating, while the rest of the congregation occupied another within reach of his voice. Those meetings in Jean Stiven's house led to the prosecution of Alexander Greig in 1748, five years before Charles Stiven was born. But whether or not she was related to the family at Glenbervie, it

is well known that its members have all been stanch Episcopalians.

Charles Stiven was a snuff-box maker in his native parish,—a likely occupation when nearly everybody, male and female, indulged in snuff. It was Lord Gardenstone's favourite luxury. He consumed it in large quantities, and used to say that if he had a dozen noses he would willingly supply them all. He carried it usually in a leather pocket, made for the purpose, in his waistcoat. His lordship's use of the article was so liberal, that the folds of his waistcoat became a repository of snuff to the villagers, who, when conversing with him, helped themselves to a pinch without his knowledge. It was customary for a lady in the position of a farmer's wife to receive a box filled with pure taddy as one of the first presents on the occasion of her marriage, and ladies in the highest rank enjoyed their pinch. One not unconnected with the parish, who died early in the century at a very advanced age, passed away in the act of raising her hand with the accustomed supply. Long after the event, it was remarked by one of the family who was present, "We were all so sorry that she did not live long enough to enjoy that last pinch."

Stiven was first brought under the notice of Lord Gardenstone by his factor, for whom he had executed some work in a superior manner. About 1783 he was induced to transfer himself to Laurencekirk, where he originated and improved upon the concealed hinge and wooden pin, which are the peculiarities of the box for which the village was famous so long. For many years a thriving trade was carried on, and

at one time there were three establishments devoted to the manufacture. One was under the venerable firm of C. Stiven and Son, and at its head was the late Alexander Stiven, who succeeded his father.

Another was that of Robert Macdonald, an apprentice of the original inventor, whose daughter he married. Their only son, Dr Alexander Macdonald, was surgeon on board one of the ill-fated vessels which perished in the Franklin expedition. He had been selected for the appointment because of an interesting volume he had published on the arctic regions, which he had frequently visited in the capacity of surgeon on board a whaling vessel. One or two of the articles, discovered by a party in search for accounts of the unfortunate explorers, were known to have belonged to Dr Macdonald.

The third establishment was owned by William Milne, another apprentice of Charles Stiven, who belonged to a family long connected with the parish.

The parent establishment not only long survived the other two, but it far exceeded them in enterprise. When snuff-taking ceased to be regarded as a necessary accomplishment, and the demand for snuff-boxes was consequently diminished, Alexander Stiven added to his business the production of many other articles of a more or less useful description, though still retaining his distinction as the prince of snuff-box makers. For many years the booking-office of the Defiance stage-coach was under his care; and the display of his workmanship in all shapes and sizes, morning and evening, captivated the attention and lightened the purses of the passengers, while not unfrequently it roused the ire of the never very patient Davie

Troup. Post-chaises were an institution in those days, and many days seldom passed without one or more being seen at the shop-door, while individuals of the party were admiring the contents of the shop, and making purchase of the articles suited to their respective tastes. On one such occasion a huge carriage drew up at the door, and a portly man with some difficulty was helped out by two servants, remarking, as he passed a few youths who stood around with gaping mouths and astonished countenance, "Well, boys, did you ever see a lord before?" It was William, Lord Panmure, who appeared to the gazing urchins large enough to be two or three lords rolled into one.

In due time the firm was honoured, through the influence of Sir John Gladstone, with the appointment of Boxmakers to her Majesty; and more than once its genial and respected head had the honour of bearing specimens of their handicraft for Royal inspection at Balmoral.

Nor let it be forgotten that, while the fastidious had unlimited choice of the useful and ornamental in the stores of Messrs Stiven, the humbler wants of the village were not overlooked. The most beautiful of the many artistic productions of the firm never perhaps gave to the lavish purchaser such unfeigned pleasure as was ministered every year to the youths of the village by the teetotums supplied at Yule for the small charge of a halfpenny. All the world has heard of the "Laurencekirk snuff-boxes;" but only those who were village youths over a quarter of a century ago, can ever cherish the reminiscence of having been *bonâ fide* owner of one of "Stiven's totums."

In these modern times, it may be necessary to explain that this little gambling instrument was in the form of a cube, with a stalk or axis on which it was made to spin. On the four sides were painted in Roman capitals the letters A. D. N. and T. respectively, and the luck of the gambler depended on which of those sides was uppermost when the rotatory motion had ceased. Let it not be despised, either for its simple construction, or for the fact that a "Yule preen or nut" was the humble stake at every game. The origin of the "totum" was classical. A Roman emperor—it matters not which—satiated with the amusements of the age, commanded the wisest of his counsellors to find out some game whose freshness and general excellence would recommend it to his imperial master, and relieve him of his *ennui*. He invented the "totum," and was rewarded with all but imperial honours. Hence the characters inscribed on the little cube, which were probably a mystery to all but one in a thousand of the Messrs Stivens' juvenile patrons. A., in the eyes of the Roman emperor, stood for "Accipe unum," which, however unconsciously, was most accurately translated in the vernacular, "A., tak' ane"—When D. appeared, "Donato alium" was the disappointed remark in the days of old Rome, supplanted in Laurencekirk by the still more expressive "D., duntle doon ane." N. was a negative quantity, calling for a contemptuous "Nihil" from the imperial lips, to be repeated with double energy by the tongues of his modern representatives, "N., nickle naething." The coveted of all the letters was T.; success could no further go, whether the stake were

an emperor's crown or a "Yule preen." "T., tak' a'!" was the exultant exclamation of the Scottish youth, which corresponded exactly in meaning with the Roman "T., totum."

John Thomson.—Though the name of John Thomson is not associated in any eventful manner with the burgh, the fact that he lived and laboured in it, from its existence almost until it had reached the proportions which it still holds, gives him a reasonable claim to a brief notice in these pages. He was originally from Edzell, where he was born in 1765, and was only laid aside from the performance of an ordinary tradesman's full daily work a few years before his death in 1862, at the age of ninety-seven years.

Many years ago an itinerant lecturer on phrenology was exercising his gifts on the minds and heads of an audience in the town-hall. It was considered a good opportunity for having John's organs professionally examined; and he was asked by his son, "Did you ever get your head read, father?" "Na," he replied; "never but wi' a kaim." He was induced to make one of the evening audience, and presented himself in due course upon the lecturer's platform. When he took his seat, the phrenologist, laying his hand upon his head, remarked, "That's a good head of yours, friend." "You may weel say that, man," was the ready reply; "I've worn it auchty-aucht years noo, an' it's never been sair."

John was not only a most regular hearer, but a very intelligent critic, of sermons. When a stranger was in the pulpit he was specially attentive; and he has been heard by his neighbours muttering to himself approval or disapproval of the doctrine which

was being inculcated. On one occasion the introduction of the sermon was not to his mind, and he kept muttering, "Buff, buff, buff." By-and-by were heard the words, "Better, better, better." And at length, with growing signs of animation, he whispered, audibly enough, "Mair o' that, mair o' that, mair o' that!"

When a lay preacher began to hold forth on stated occasions, John went to hear him on a Sunday evening in the Independent Chapel. His son-in-law, with whom he lived, having asked him how he liked the preacher, he answered, "Very weel; he's a clever chield." One evening of the following week John was perusing some old 'Monthly Visitors,' when he came upon one which he recognised as bearing a strong likeness to what he had heard on the Sunday before. When he had read it from beginning to end, he laid it down with the quiet but significant remark, "'Od, he's a clever chield yet! for he hasna misca'd a single word."

PART FOURTH.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

CHAPTER XXVII.

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD.

It has been popularly believed that the original site of the church was upon the lands which are still known by the name of Conveth. There is no assurance, however, that such is the fact, and the probability is all against it. The supposition appears to have rested solely upon the mistaken idea that the name of Conveth was originally restricted to those lands. There is no trace of any church or burying-ground elsewhere, Chapel Knap alone excepted; and in all likelihood the monks of ancient Conveth offered their devotions on the very spot where the people are known to have assembled regularly for divine worship for the last two centuries and a half.

The church of Conveth was early dedicated to St

Lawrence, but there is a difference of opinion as to which of two individuals bearing the name had the honour of dedication conferred upon him.

The popular belief has been, that it was St Lawrence, a Roman deacon of the third century. He lived in the time of the persecution by Valerian; and his bishop, Sixtus II., suffered martyrdom. When he saw the bishop led to death, the deacon followed, crying out, "Whither dost thou go, father, without thy son?" The aged martyr gave him charge of the treasures of the church, which the persecutors speedily demanded to be delivered up. Lawrence was arrested on refusing to surrender them, and he besought a respite for three days, at the end of which he promised to yield up his charge. The three days were allowed, and he employed them in bringing together the poor and the sick, whom he pointed out to the minions of the Emperor as the greatest treasures in the eyes of Heaven. The persecutors, maddened by what they regarded as an insult, wreaked their vengeance, cruelly burning him to death on a gridiron. He suffered this martyrdom in 258, not ceasing in the midst of his tortures to mock his enemies.

In the opinion of Dr Joseph Robertson, the patron saint of the church was not the Roman martyr, but an ancient primate of England of the same name. This St Lawrence visited Pictland some time between the years 605 and 619, and the church of Conveth is said to have been dedicated to him, in his honour, and as a memorial of his visit. "Long afterwards," according to Mr Jervise, "in 1073-93, our own 'good Queen Margaret' made a pilgrimage to the church

of St Lawrence of this place, and, in her anxiety to do honour to the prelate's memory, she went disguised as a canon; but, having thus violated the traditions of her country, she was repulsed from entering the church."

Whoever was the saintly patron, the ecclesiastical superior, at a very early date, was the Prior of St Andrews, the church of Conveth being a rectory belonging to the establishment of which that churchman was at the head. It was dedicated by Bishop David in 1244; and in the old taxation of Scottish churches, made about 1275, the "kirk of Cuneueth" is rated at 30 marks.

Nothing is known of the ecclesiastical history of the parish until the time of the Reformation—a work which the life and death of one young man closely related to it was instrumental in hastening. It is undoubted that the martyrdom of George Wishart was overruled to this great end; and it is interesting to know that others in still closer relationship to the parish had directly a share in its accomplishment.

It is not until the year 1626 that there is express information of the church building. That year a church was erected, and, with various additions and modifications, it served the parish until the present one took its place. When it was being taken down, the figure of a man lying on a gridiron was found carved upon one of the stones—representing, it was supposed, the martyrdom of St Lawrence. This shows that the popular belief, that the dedication of the church was to the Roman deacon, must have been held at that date; and the time at which Lau-

rence Fair takes place may, perhaps, lead to the same conclusion, the saint's day in the Romish calendar being the 10th of August.

The present church was built in 1804 by James Duirs. The material was largely taken from the ruins of Haulkerton Castle. There had been an old prediction of uncertain origin, that "Haulkerton and Laurencekirk would one day meet," and this fact was accepted by some people as a reasonable fulfilment of the prophecy, though it had been fulfilled more than a century before. The building was enlarged in 1819, though for many years it has been unequal, in respect of size, to the requirements of the parish.

The churchyard, when the biographer of Dr Beattie wrote, early in the century, contained the schoolhouse which the poet had attended in his youth. The grounds belonging to the church and school were common until the separation which followed the removal of the school to another site, when the old site and pertinents became part of the Haulkerton estate, on which the brewery came to be built. The church and manse, the school and inn, along with a few surrounding houses, formed the Kirkton of Conveth. Close by was the steading of George Hampton, who farmed "half Boneytoun and Laurencekirk;" and lying a little to the north was Diracroft, or Bellakers, which in the early days of the monks was a perquisite of the sacristan of the rectory, predecessor in office of the modern beadle. A stream of water flowing on the west side of the churchyard, whose channel has long been covered over, may have been the "brook" which the author

of 'The Minstrel' had in view when describing the spot on which he desired to be buried :—

> "Fast by a brook or fountain's murmuring wave."

The memorials in the churchyard, where so many generations sleep, bear names whose remembrance is still fresh in many a heart not parted from its sorrow. One after another, on those silent records, appears a name which was but lately identified with all the interests of the parish and burgh. But it is the older tombstones, memorials of men and women long departed, that are the fitter subjects of these pages, to which a few of the more interesting inscriptions may be transferred.

The oldest existing one is a stone with sloped ends and sides, near the south wall of the church, on which, in interlaced capitals, the following words are carved :—

> "Readers con . . . . . t he Heir lye
> Who lyes heir nov was onc as ye Wiliam
> As he is nov so ye mvst be Lawsone son to
> Remember al that ye mvst die David Lawsone
> In Povbvrne departed the 13 year of his age 1656."

Upon the north slope of the stone the following lines are similarly carved :—

> "Her lyes one while he lived did seeme
> To vertves path addicted. The hovris rvn.
> Short tyme weil spent heir will condemne
> The long lyf of the wicked. Memento mori."

Another stone of the same form has this inscription :—

> "Heer lyes David Lawson in . . . . . who
> departed this lyfe the . . . . . O
> ctober 1670, of age 52 years. In death . . . ."

The headstone, on which the following inscription is beautifully carved in interlaced Roman capitals, may have been erected by the laird of Redmyre :—

"Here . . . . James, David, Margrat, Mare Stvart, lavfvl children . . David Stvart and Jean Wallace his spovs, who departed this lyf in the yearis of God 1671, 72, 7–, and 77.

"No sooner cam they from the vombs dark cave
Bvt back again they most . . to the grave
For non of them bvt on did years atine
In vhom God's Spirit vorking might be seen
Vherby he did apear to take delyght
In them that he an . . . . . ke to perfyt
Vhich Christ himself provideth in his book
Concerning babs in the 18 of Lvk
. . . . . ."

The next inscription, also in capital letters, is on a slab which the late John Thomson, with exemplary care for its preservation, fixed on the east wall of the church at his own expense. It records the death of Ruddiman's predecessor :—

"Her . lyes . Master . Patrick . Bellie . Schoolle .
Master . who . departed . this . lyfe . February .
The . 10 . 1695 . of . age . 20 . yeirs . 5 . moneths .
And . 16 . dayes."

"Here lyes vnder the hope of a gloriovs resvrrection, Alexander Covie, hvsband to Margaret Beatie, somtime in Mil of Halcartovn vho departed this life the 3 of March 1709, and of his age 79 years.

Disce mori, qvicvnq legis mea scripta, viator ;
Omnes æqva manent fvnera ; Disce mori :
Disce mori : Frater discat cvm præsvle, clervs
Cvm ivniore senex, cvm sapiente rvdis.
A. C. : M. B. : J. C. : A. C."

The same Latin verse is found in the churchyard of Dun, on the tombstone of "Katherine Fullarton," wife of David Erskine in Ballachie, who died in 1697. The wife of Alexander Cowie, junior, who

had erected the above stone, was Janet Fullerton; and a relationship between the families may account for this twofold appearance of the lines, which have been thus freely rendered into English verse:—

"Whoe'er thou art that read'st these lines,
Which, Traveller, I have penn'd:
O learn to die! and know that all
Are equal in the end.
The monk may from the abbot learn,
The young clerk from the old,
The unletter'd from the learn'd know
Our days must soon be told."

"Vain . tears . give . ore . for . I . am . far . above
The . highest . reach . of . any . human . love .
My . soul's . in . Glory . Death's . unseemly . shade .
A . pleasant . grove . is . to . my . body . made .
Where . heavenly . rest . I'le . take . until . the . day .
That . (come . my . Father's . Blessed .) Christ . shall . say .
Then . shal . my . joys . begune . perfected . be .
With . lasting . peace . blest . in . the . Lord . that . die."

Above these lines, on an elaborately carved stone, are two death's-heads, separated by an urn, on which are the initials J. T. and E. M., with a heart between them. At the top of the stone are two figures of angels; and the following words are inscribed round the margin:—

"Here lies under the hope of a Glorious Resurrection Elspet Mores laufull spouse to John Tyllour, Cordoner in Laurencekirk, who departed this life March 24, 1720, being of age 55 years."

John Taylor, Cordoner (shoemaker), may have been the same as was ordained an elder in 1725. A few years later a "Robert Mores, in Drumnagair," appears as a debtor of the kirk-session.

The following letters are all that can be de-

ciphered of an inscription on a flat slab on the south side of the church, which is understood to be the memorial of David Wysse :—

". . . . . s . David . W . y .
. . . . . Mains of Lavr . . .
. . . . . Life November
The . . day . . . . . .
D. W. M. N."

On a headstone east of the churchyard-walk appear these lines :—

"Make the extended skies your tomb
Let stars record your worth,
Yet know vain mortals all must die
. . ts Nature's sickliest Birth
. . thy fair Book of life Divine
. . . God inscribe my name
here let it fill some humble place
Beneath the slaughtered Lamb."

The poetical lines of the next two inscriptions are the composition of Dr Beattie :—

"The Rev. David Forbes, Minister of St Laurencekirk, erects this stone to the memory of his father, Alex. Forbes, who payed to nature its last debt August 7, 1768, aged about 80 years :—

"Shall venal flattery prostitute the Muse,
To senseless titles spurious honours pay,
And yet to rural worth such lays refuse,
Which Truth may burnish with her brightest ray ?
Forbid it, Equity ! The task be mine
To yield his memory all the praise I can ;
The whole's compris'd in this conclusive line—
God's noblest work (here lyes) an Honest Man."

A brass plate inserted in the stone records the death of the Rev. David Forbes in 1795 ; and of his widow, Katharine Morison, who died 22d October 1820, aged seventy years.

"Alexander Beattie, d. 1788, a. 26 :—

"Ah, early lost! ah, life! thou empty name,
A noontide shadow, and a midnight dream;
Death might have satisfy'd his craving rage
And mow'd down all the vices of the age.
But Heaven who saw, offended with our crimes,
Begrug'd thy virtues to the abandon'd times:
By his cold hand transplanted thee on high,
To live and flourish through eternity."

The subject of the epitaph was the elder son of Alexander Beattie at Middleton. He was studying for the ministry in the Episcopal Church, and for a time acted as tutor in the Breadalbane family. The usage of the Highlands necessitated his wearing a kilt. A severe cold was caught in consequence, and he returned to his father's house to die of consumption.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

KIRK OFFICERS.

Of all officials, the beadle is generally credited with the strongest desire to magnify his office, and perhaps himself. It is from no depreciation of this functionary and his duties, but only from want of space to do both full justice, that the notice of successive holders of the office must form a comparatively brief chapter.

The first of whom there is any record was named Caddenhead. He is introduced only to give way to a successor, George Coley, who was appointed in 1749.

It was agreed that George should "receive all emoluments except twopence every Sabbath, to be uplifted at the year's end for the behoof of William Marnoe, stepson to G. Coley." John Rew was the next official. He died in 1791, and was succeeded by that perfect model of a beadle of the olden time, John Craw.

John, or his father, had been brought from the parish of Fordoun to the service of Lord Gardenstone. It was John's duty to accompany Dr George Cook in his first visitation of the parish. In most of the houses visited, John had to partake of a dram, and the minister found it necessary to limit his daily visitation by the hospitality of the several households and John's capacity. On leaving a house where John had made a wry face when helped to the usual glass, he was asked if the whisky was not good. "Humph!" he replied; "it wisna whisky—naisty dirt o' cinnamon-waters!"

John's views of the dignity of his office were in due keeping with beadle orthodoxy. It had long been his custom to share the counsels of the session, and express his opinion on the question discussed. Dr Cook was first amused, and then annoyed, at his unseasonable interruptions, and at length checked them by a reminder that he had nothing to do there. John walked off indignant, but not crestfallen, muttering along the passage, "Is that the wye o'd? That is something new: I'm thinkin' I ken mair aboot it than ony o' you."

A commercial traveller strolled into the churchyard and entered into a conversation with John. It came out that he had a book in which his performances as a sexton were registered, and the stranger

was curious to see it. He asked him to bring it in the evening to the Gardenstone Arms, and he would give him his supper. On inspection he observed a name obliterated on one of the pages, and inquired the reason. "You see, when this ane was buried," replied John, pointing to the line above, "that ane," referring to the one erased, "was thocht to be deein', an' as the book was in my hand, I put him doon; but he cheated me!"

The minister of Dun was officiating on one occasion, and the sermon was very long. On coming down from the pulpit he was expostulated with,—the afternoon service began then at two o'clock, and the hour was drawing near. "Never mind," said Mr Eadie, "you'll no' be kept so lang next—it's a' in my pouch now" (referring to his MS., which he had not used in the forenoon); "you can ring the bell when you like, John." "I daursay that," was the reply, "but the folk maun hae their dinner."

The following incident occurred in the time of John's successor. The minister of Logie Pert was officiating. He had been told there were three children to be presented for baptism, only two of whom appeared. Mr Hill inquired at an elder if there was not another child to come. The worthy man stood, stared first at one round hole and then at another in the roof of the church, but seeing no child drop from either found words at last to confess his ignorance. John Willocks was appealed to, and looking to the opposite side of the church, where the officer was seated, he passed the question over the heads of the congregation: "Ony mae bairns, Tammas?" The answer came back with equal promptitude, "Na!"

It would be difficult to define the avocations of a beadle, or to limit the important uses to which he may be put. A sister-in-law of one of the Episcopal clergymen was dependent for outdoor exercise on the use of a bath-chair, and the beadle was thought a likely person to draw it. It was deemed courteous to consult the minister before employing him, and a villager thus tersely conveyed the message: "Hae you ony objections to the bethel's trailin' oot the chapel-minister's wife's sister?"

CHAPTER XXIX.

MINISTERS FROM THE REFORMATION.

From 1567 to 1585 a reader, or unordained minister, divided his services between the parishes of Conveth and Aberluthnott, now Marykirk, his remuneration amounting to £8, 6s. 8d. sterling. His name was Patrick Ramsay. He was probably related to the Ramsays of Balmain. Many of the sons of the landed proprietors of those days devoted themselves to the ministry.

Patrick Boncle was the first ordained minister of the parish, in which he was settled in 1574. He had previously, in 1567, been appointed minister of Fordoun, having the parishes of Fettercairn and Newdosk also under his charge. The lands of Newdosk are now divided between Fettercairn and Edzell. He is referred to in an ordinance of the General As-

sembly of 1571 as one of "the auld chaptoure" of St Andrews, and one of the "ministeris professouris of the treu religioun." The ordinance declares that he should continue to be one of the chapter during his life, and have a voice in the election of the archbishop, &c. When he removed to Conveth, he still continued in charge of his former parishes, with a stipend of £13, 6s. 8d., and possession of the kirklands. He was only four years in the parish, when he left it under the sole charge of Mr Ramsay, and returned to Fordoun. He was present at the General Assembly of 1582, and reported, on the constitution of Presbyteries, that they had erected in the Mearns "a Presbytrie of ministers, but not as yet of any gentlemen or elders." A coadjutor was appointed to him in 1599, and he died a few years after.

William Gray became minister of the parish in 1585. He was doubtless related to the noble family of Gray, whose interests in the parish were very considerable. The land still held by the minister, supplementary to the glebe, was probably conferred on the benefice in his time, when the lands adjoining formed part of the Middleton estate. The popular tradition has been, that it was the gift of a Lady Haulkerton to the minister, having a condition attached that he should pray for her release from purgatory. Indeed one respected incumbent, whose devotional service frequently contained the words "those whom we are bound to remember," was credited with a desire to fulfil his part in such a compact to the letter! But the probability is, that the gift was merely a token of goodwill to the benefice, which happened at the time to be in the enjoy-

ment of her kinsman. Mr Gray is known to have been minister of the parish until 1601, beyond which year his history cannot be traced.

Alexander Symson, A.M., was the next minister, having been appointed in 1607. He had graduated four years before at the University of St Andrews. He may have been related to a family which gave several talented ministers to the Church in the half-century which followed the Reformation—the family of Andrew Simsone, author of 'Rudimenta Grammatices,' who at the time of the Reformation was a distinguished schoolmaster in Perth, and afterwards became minister of the parish, and master of the grammar-school, of Dunbar. Andrew Simsone had four sons in the ministry, and the minister of Conveth was, not unlikely, a grandson. It was during his ministry that the old church was built, and he was a member of the memorable Assemblies of 1638 and 1639. He ministered in the parish during the troublous years which followed, when the appearance of hostile armies was a frequent occurrence, and minister and people alike were subject to the ravages which they spread. There is no record of his death, or removal otherwise from the parish. Two Patrick Symsons, father and son, successive ministers of Logie Pert (1646-1716), were probably his son and grandson.

Robert Douglas, A.M., succeeded Mr Symson as minister, having been ordained some time between 1650, when he is known to have been a preacher, and January 1657, at which date there is evidence of his having been previously settled in the parish. He was the son of Robert Douglas of Kilmonth,

whose father, James Douglas, minister of Glenbervie (1590-1635), was the second son of Sir Archibald Douglas, and younger brother of the ninth Earl of Angus. He was born in 1625, and graduated at King's College in 1647. During his ministry at Conveth, Episcopacy was established in Scotland. Mr Douglas was a hearty supporter of the change thus introduced. Three years after its introduction he was translated from Conveth, and was subsequently minister of Hamilton and Dean of Glasgow. He was consecrated Bishop of Brechin in 1682, and, having discharged the duties of that office two years, was translated to the bishopric of Dunblane. On the re-establishment of Presbytery in 1689, he was ejected; and he died at Dundee 22d September 1716, in his ninety-second year, having borne an excellent reputation during his whole life.

Robert Douglas was twice married, and had four sons, one of whom died in infancy. His eldest son, Robert, who was minister of Bothwell, was deposed in 1689, and died in 1746. Sylvester, the second son, in 1695 married Margaret Keith, heiress of Whiteriggs, and with her got the estate. Their grandson, Sylvester Douglas, born in 1743, was called to the English bar, and became a distinguished lawyer and politician, holding several important offices, and being rewarded for his services in 1800 with an Irish peerage and the title of Baron Glenbervie of Kincardine. The Bishop's fourth son, George, was progenitor of the Douglases of Brigton, in Forfarshire.

Patrick Trumbill, A.M., a graduate of King's College, was admitted to the charge in September

1666. It has been suggested that he belonged to an old family which had a settlement in the Mearns during the thirteenth century. The name appears in the various forms of Trembley, Trumbull, and Turnbull; and it has been traced to the turning and slaughter of a bull which was about to attack Robert the Bruce, when the fortunate defender of his Majesty was rewarded with the lands of Bedrule in Teviotdale. The family had disappeared from the Mearns in 1296, to be found again in the person of Patrick, who was appointed minister of Conveth about the time that the lands of Bedrule went from the descendants of the original Turnbull. He was married to Ann Melville; and his son John, (or James, according to some accounts), was served his heir in annuities rising from lands in Garvock and St Cyrus, nearly twenty years after the decease of the minister, who died between 1674 and 1676. About the same period there were Turnbulls on Smiddyhill and Stracathro, to whom he was probably related. A descendant of the Stracathro family was laird of Muirton, or Auchinreoch, in the beginning of the present century.

William Dunbar, A.M., a native of Moray, and graduate of King's College, was the next minister of the parish. His first appearance in the parish was in the office of schoolmaster, to which he was appointed soon after his graduation in 1670. He was ordained parish minister in September 1677. He was a zealous adherent to the royal house of Stewart, and a very keen Episcopalian. During his incumbency in 1689, Episcopacy was disestablished, and Presbytery restored. The change was not acceptable

to him; and he not only clung with tenacity to his Episcopal opinions, but openly defended them, and refused submission to Presbyterial government. He declined to pray for their Majesties William and Mary; and on one occasion assembling the parishioners in the church, he obliged them to swear publicly that they would never bear arms against any of the race or name of Stewart. He was deprived of office in 1693 for these acts of insubordination; but, for the next quarter of a century, he took an active share in the events which culminated in the Rebellion of 1715. Though extruded in 1693 from the office of parish minister, it was not until October 1716 that he was deposed from the ministry by the Presbytery of Brechin, for intruding into the church of Montrose, when the accredited ministers were prevented by the rebels from entering the pulpit. He died in 1729, when about eighty years of age. He was probably not the only member of his family to follow this erratic course; for John Dunbar, also a native of Moray and graduate of King's College, who became minister of Forglen in 1676, died at the age of seventy, in 1716, while under a process of discipline. Another William Dunbar, minister of Cruden, was deposed in 1716, consecrated a bishop in the non-jurant Episcopal Church in 1727, appointed to the Diocese of Moray, and transferred to that of Aberdeen in 1733. He died in 1746, aged about seventy-three.

Arthur Shepherd, A.M., a graduate of St Andrews, and at one time schoolmaster of Kinross, was called by the Presbytery *jure devoluto*, and ordained minister of the parish in March 1699. It had probably taken

the Presbytery the intervening six years to get rid of their troublesome brother. Mr Shepherd had once been tainted with the sentiments which brought his predecessor to grief; for previous to license by the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy in 1691, he "professed sorrow for passing trials and taking a testimonial under Episcopacy." His wife was Isobel Craw. After nine years' ministry he died in April 1707, about the fifty-ninth year of his age.

His son, Arthur Shepherd, was first a merchant in Laurencekirk, and afterwards Sheriff-Depute of Kincardineshire. He had probably received the appointment to the sheriffship on the recommendation of the Presbytery after the Rebellion of 1715. He married Elizabeth, second daughter of David Wysse, whose name is honourably associated with the parish as donor of a legacy, bequeathed previous to his death, which occurred in 1732, the interest of which is yearly expended on objects of charity. David Wysse was a native of Thornton, and tenant of Mains of Lauriston. His eldest daughter, Margaret, was the wife of another parishioner, James Allardice at Powburn; and his first wife, Margaret Nairn, was probably a near relation of the farmer of Burnton. His eldest surviving son became proprietor of the estate of Lunan, whose daughter was married to Harry Ogilvy, minister of Lunan, long noted for his eccentric utterances in the pulpit. Mrs Ogilvy was eighteen years of age when she married, and she had been baptized by the gentleman whom she afterwards accepted as a husband.

The existing records of the kirk-session date from 26th April 1702, when "Att the Church of Conveth"

its members are enumerated: "*Minister*,—Mr Arthur Shepherd. *Elders*, — Alexr. Cowie, in Milen of Halcartoun; David Watson, in pollburn; Robert Croall, in North Hill of Halcartoun; John Wolson, in Whytsauch; Alexr. Cowie, junr., in Mains of Halcartoun; David Alexander, in Wynfoord; and John Napier." The other elders ordained in Mr Shepherd's ministry were Sir David Carnegie, in 1703; and "John Ffullerton, in Blackmore," and James Cox, in 1706.

In 1703, Alexander Alexander, in the laird of Johnston's ground, was called before the session for "currsing and swearing on the Sabbath;" and his wife, Margaret Falconer, for breach of the Sabbath by "bleaching cloaths." After expressing due penitence they were absolved from the scandal.

In 1706, "Margaret Silvie and Margaret Keith, maid-servants to John Leper, in Boninton, had broken the Lord's Day by carying water from the burn on barrows," and were summoned to compear. They "ingenuously confessed, but it was upon the point of necessity, and were exhorted to repentance."

It was not until three years after Mr Shepherd's death that a successor was ordained. The extruded Mr Dunbar may have had sufficient influence to cause a delay likely to be in his favour. "The vacancie was supplied by probationers of this presbrie untill June thereafter, and from that to Michaelmas by the minrs. of Angus—all the appointment of the Synod in favours of the late minr's. representatives; but there was not sermons every Sabbath." Two of the probationers were David Archer, afterwards appointed minister, and John Dunbar, who

may have been related to the extruded minister. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Fordoun in 1706, ordained to the charge of Menmuir in 1709, and died minister of that parish in 1744.

A call, meanwhile, had been addressed early in 1709 to Mr James Gordoun, minister of Premno. The heritors and elders had signed the call, and the presbytery of the bounds concurred, but the translation did not take place.

CHAPTER XXX.

MINISTERS—(*continued*).

David Archer, A.M., was ordained minister of the parish in 1710. He was the son of pious parents at Pathhead, near Kirkcaldy. He graduated at St Andrews University in 1699, and eight years after was licensed by the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy. His ministry was cast upon troublous times. Like a large proportion of the parish ministers of Scotland, he was well affected to the existing Government; and his loyalty exposed him to persecution. The minute of 25th September 1715 bears: "No sermon here this day, in regard of the confusion and disturbance in the countrie." That was during the Rebellion, when, being obliged to flee, he went south, and made the acquaintance of Wodrow the historian.

There seems to have been no sermon until the 19th of February following, and in the interval

the session were exercised in providing for the safety of the church property. On 10th October they recorded their "care of the session-box, with the money and papers therein, and laid it up in a secure place." The means adopted for their security appear in the minute of 1st February: "The elders, finding that the box and cuppes are under the ground, did think fitt to look them, to see if they were spoil'd; which they did accordingly, and delivered the two cuppes to Alexander Cowie to keep. As for the box, they delay the ordering of it till Sabbath next; but there being a confusion in the countrie before Sabbath, the elders mett, and put up the box in a private place." Then on 9th March: "It was thought fitt to lift the box and the cuppes, being beneath the ground, which was done accordingly." Their precaution was justified by the fate of other articles belonging to the session, as appears in the following entry: "The register of baptisms and marriages since my entrie to this place was taken away and torn by the Highlanders in time of the late Rebellion, which was in the moneth of September jai vij and fifteen years. This is attested at Conveth Kirk, Febr. 1st, 1716, by R. Mortimer, Sess.-Clk."

The two "cuppes" are still safe in the keeping of the kirk-session, and in regular use on sacramental occasions. Apart from their history, they are to be valued as venerable relics. On both there is the following inscription in capital letters: "This cwp is given by the people of Conveth and Mr William Dvnbar, preacher of the Gospell there, for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Svpper. Anno 1688."

Mr Archer had resumed his charge in February. The Wodrow correspondence contains two letters from him, giving details of the Rebellion after his return. Both were written in March 1716, and the first one is significantly dated, "From my own Fireside, Laurencekirk, Mearns, March 2, 1716." A few extracts from those letters will give some indication of the state of the neighbourhood at a time of great national trouble. Few even of the ministers who were allowed to retain their pulpits during the triumph of the rebels could venture to pray for the King by name. Having stated that Mr James Trail at Montrose, and one Mr Gutcher, in the Presbytery of Dundee (James Goodsir, Strathmartin), had prayed nominatim for King George, he goes on to write:—

"I hear of no more who have prayed for the King by name. Yea, they have been obliged to leave their churches and preach in their own houses; and such of them as I have had occasion to converse with, have told me they would have given all they had in a world to have been off. The minister of Marykirk was forced to drink the Pretender's health, and to give them money besides. My nearest neighbour, Mr Muirson [minister of Garvock], about whom we had no small jealousies, and who was under process for an oath he had given anent one Mr Arbuthnot in this Presbytery [who was deposed for disrespect to the Sabbath], and for some other miscarriages, has not only been faithful at this time, but remarkably instrumental in supporting the honest party in several parishes round about him. The Episcopal clergy have been very uppish, some of

them giving that character of the wicked to us who came off, that we fled when no man pursued; others have termed us in their flights 'the priests of Baal and Jeroboam.'"

The Presbytery drew up a letter to the Justice-Clerk, detailing the circumstances, and giving a list of persons known to be adverse to the Rebellion, whom they recommended as sheriff, lieutenant, and justices of peace; and they took steps for their more effectual riddance of the Episcopal intruders. Mr Archer gives the following not very flattering account of the share of his own parishioners in the Rebellion:—

"After our getting some little time to breathe and to examine the conduct of our people, we find that the generality have made most lamentable defections by countenancing the intentions, and giving all testimonies of their joy upon account of the change. And I find they have not been few of this stamp among those I am concerned in; but as I have been disappointed as to some few, so there are others of whom I expected but little who have appeared for the truth. One of my elders has collected the two days my charge was intruded upon, who is to have a bill of ease, according to the practice of my brethren in the like circumstances."

The delinquencies of the general population are not to be wondered at, when this is the account given of their social superiors:—

"I hear indeed that some of these rebels are uppish; but I apprehend that if they were so, they would not be flying away; and besides, I know certainly that they are not all so. And as to their

gathering together, I can learn nothing of it—except it be to make their escape off the country. I am informed that the gentlemen of this shire are to congratulate the success of his Majesty's arms. I saw a copy of their address. And to give you their character, that you may know what sort of gentlemen we have to do with: During the Rebellion they went to the Episcopal meetings, where the Pretender was prayed for as king; many of them waited on him when he passed through the country, and, in short, are heart friends to the Pretender's interests."

Considerable parties of the royal forces were in quest of the rebels, who had fled to the Highlands; and on the 30th March, Mr Archer wrote from Laurencekirk:—

"I heard by a post who passed yesterday through this town, and came from Dunkeld that morning, that the army was marched towards the Highlands; and it is probable we shall have accounts of them shortly."

He added in the same letter:—

"At our meeting of Presbytery last, we ordered summonses for the Episcopal clergy, and are purposed to depose them upon evidence of their rebellion, which will be easily proven. And I find this is the method which other Presbyteries here are taking to ease the corner for ever of the burden."

Mr Archer married Katharine Brown in July 1716, and he continued to be minister of the parish until his death, which took place in May 1726, about the forty-seventh year of his age.

The elders ordained during his ministry were—"Arthur Shepherd, merchant at Laurencekirk; John

Fullarton, tennent in Keillburn ; and Archibald Greig, in Redmire," in 1713 ; and "James Beattie, Mill of Halcarton, and John Tayler, in Laurencekirk," in 1725.

Andrew Thomson, son of the minister of Flisk, in Fifeshire, and a licentiate of the Presbytery of Cupar, was ordained minister of the parish 11th May 1727. He was a man of great learning, distinguished for his knowledge of Scripture in the original. The earlier years of Beattie's life were spent under his ministry, and honourable mention of his relation to the illustrious poet appears in the Life of Dr Beattie by Sir William Forbes :—

"For such books as he [the poet] read at this early period, he was almost solely indebted to the Rev. Mr Thomson, at that time minister of Lawrence-Kirk—a very learned man, whose collection, though in all probability it was not large, yet was superior to what a minister of the Church of Scotland can generally be supposed to possess in a country parish. Of that clergyman Dr Beattie always spoke with the highest respect, and acknowledged in a particular manner his obligations to him for the use of books."

Mr Thomson married in 1746, and died 4th February 1759, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

The elders ordained in his time were—"James Allardice, in Polbourne ; John Crole, in Hill of Halcarton ; John Paterson, at Wakemill ; and James Findlay, at Halcarton," in 1730 ; and George Guthrie, at Whitesauch ; Hugh Hunter, David Beattie, and David Taylor, in Laurencekirk, in 1751.

David Forbes, A.M., was the next minister of the parish. He was the son of Alexander Forbes, a

blacksmith in the parish of Garvock, who is said to have been related to Dr Beattie. Having studied at King's College, he became a graduate of the university in 1749. He was presented to the parish in July 1759, but his settlement was objected to by the parishioners. The objections having been overruled by the General Assembly, he was ordained in August 1760.

Mr Forbes had the reputation of being a man not over-active in his habits, and of performing his duties in a very perfunctory manner. He married Catherine Morison in 1792; and the following year he was seized with apoplexy while assisting at the Sacrament at Marykirk. The pastoral care of the parish was intrusted to David Dunbar, afterwards minister of Leslie in Aberdeenshire. Mr Forbes died in 1795, aged seventy years.

The elders ordained by him were, in 1760, Andrew Wyllie, Mill of Conveth; David Lawson, in Whitesaugh; Alexander Smart, Polburn; and James Niddry, in Honeyhive: and in 1781, James Milne, Burnton.

There is a minute of 1783, bearing that "George Davidson, late servant to George Murdoch, was censured for a clandestine marriage with Elizabeth Croll, and seriously warned to avoid every irregularity in all time coming, inasmuch as the Supreme Governor of the world is a lover of order, but hates and abhors everything that leads to confusion."

CHAPTER XXXI.

MINISTERS—(*continued*).

Dr George Cook, the next minister of the parish, was the most distinguished of all who have held that office. George Cook was the second son of John Cook, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the United College of St Andrews. He was born in 1772, graduated at St Andrews in 1790, and became a licentiate of the Church in 1795. It would be out of place in these pages to trace his history, farther than it is connected with Laurencekirk. His eminence as a writer of ecclesiastical history and other works, and his distinction as one of the chief leaders of the Church in a period of sore trial, can only be noticed here as well-known facts reflecting honour upon the parish.

The moderation of his call to the parish, on 9th July 1795, is described in a style characteristic of the clerk, Mr Scott, as a "business which was pleasant and unanimous." He was ordained on the 3d of September, and very soon acquired an influence which extended far beyond the limits of the parish.

In 1805 there is incidental notice of the death of George Hampton, elder, who entertained due respect for the congregation of which he was an office-bearer. A professor of divinity from St Andrews was visiting at the manse, and was to officiate for his friend the minister. Before service the rev. gentlemen were in the study, when Mr Hampton was shown in. A

formal introduction took place: "This is Professor ——, from St Andrews, Mr Hampton; he has kindly agreed to preach to us to-day." The worthy elder was not abashed in presence of the learned man, but quietly remarked: "Maybe, sir; see then that ye gie's ane o' your best: for mind ye, we're nae Stoics here."

Mr Cook in 1808 published his first important work, entitled, 'An illustration of the General Evidence establishing the Reality of Christ's Resurrection,' and the same year he received the degree of D.D. from the University of St Andrews. That his literary labours did not interfere with his ordinary duties may be inferred from a casual reference in the session records of 1810 to the improved state of the session funds, "arising in a great measure from the more ample collections which have of late been given;" which, it is added, "will afford the session enlarged means of contributing to the comfort of the poor." The 'History of the Reformation in Scotland' followed in 1811. The closing sentence of his preface to that work may be quoted, as indicating the motive which influenced the author in its production: "Amidst the tremendous convulsions which agitate Europe, and which threaten to terminate in the wide diffusion of military despotism, it is delightful to look back to a revolution which disseminated the blessings of liberty and the consolations of pure religion; while the contemplation of the fortitude with which our ancestors defended themselves from a foreign yoke, cannot fail to strengthen that noble spirit of independence which has descended to their posterity, and which alone

can ultimately preserve us from the horrors of conquest and the misery of oppression."

In 1815 Dr Cook published 'The History of the Church of Scotland from the Establishment of the Reformation to the Revolution;' and in the execution of that work he has been charged, not unjustly altogether, with a bias towards Episcopacy. It must be confessed that this charge, in an aggravated form, was brought home to him, on one occasion at least, by a parishioner. He was preparing for the forenoon service when a scuffle was heard at the door, and Jean —— burst into the room, in spite of the remonstrating servant. "I'm gaen to the kirk the day, Doctor." "That's right, Jean." "An' I want to sit aside you." "But there wouldn't be room for both of us, you know," replied the Doctor. "Ah! but I maun sit aside you; and mair, I want to gie out a psalm, the first or second, just as you like yersel'." "But that would never do, Jean," was the emphatic remark, which met with the equally emphatic reply, as she turned away indignant: "*You're waur than the Chapel fouk, Doctor—they gie wird aboot.*"

It is not to the purpose here either to renew that charge or to defend the author against it; and a more competent theme is suggested by a sentence which occurs in the preface of the work: "He trusts that some indulgence will be extended to him, when he states that he has prosecuted his studies far from public libraries." His own collection of books was not likely to be a meagre one, though old "Dauvid ——" held it in no great estimation. When unfit for harder work, he was employed to look after the

cows on the glebe. The minister, commiserating the wearisomeness of the old man's occupation, requested one of his sons to offer him a book, to help in passing the time away. "Do you never weary, Dauvid?" asked the boy. "I div that," was the prompt reply. "Would you like a book to read?" "Ay, wad I." "I'll get one for you, if you like, from my father's library," was the obliging offer, to which the unhesitating response came: "*Ah, min, he hasna ony wirth anes.*" Perhaps "Dauvid," listless as his occupation appeared, had sufficient mental food within himself. In his younger days he had been a great traveller in foreign lands. At all events he had so long repeated the assertion, that he had actually come to believe it himself, notwithstanding that his history at home could be traced by others without a break. He was fond of reciting the thrilling incidents that had occurred to him in these imaginary journeyings; and it is doubtful if Dr Cook's library contained anything so wonderful as his own experience furnished. One of his favourite tales had its foundation in a sojourn somewhere in the centre of Africa, where the frost was so intense that the smoke which ascended from the camp-fire was immediately converted into a pillar of ice!

Preparatory to a process by Dr Cook for augmentation of stipend, it was necessary after service to summon the heritors and all parties concerned to the Court of Teinds, to look after their respective interests. The duty was performed by the precentor, who gravely called upon the specified parties to appear on a certain day in Edinburgh before a "Court of Fiends!" It was a remarkable announce-

ment to be made at the feet and instance of a man who was yet to be celebrated in the couplet:—

> "From Cook of St Andrews to Bisset of Bourtie—
> The head and the tail of the Moderate party."

The following curious incident is among the records of the kirk-session: "In the course of the month of October 1817 a number of women, giving themselves out to be soldiers' wives, applied to the kirk-treasurer for the travelling allowances granted by Act of Parliament, and produced the usual papers, having every appearance of being authentic and accurately attested. No suspicion of imposture was entertained, and a sum exceeding forty pounds was paid to them. In a few days it was discovered that the papers had been forged, and that the women presenting them were swindlers." This case of imposture exercised the minds of the kirk-session for the next eighteen months. A representation was made through Mr Farquhar to the War Office, which refused at first to entertain their claim for the recovery of the money. A second attempt was more successful; and the whole loss sustained by the transaction, including interest and stamp, was £2, 13s. 6d.

Dr Cook was proposed as Moderator in the General Assembly in 1821, and again in the following year; but on both occasions he lost the election. The two defeats, however, were atoned for in 1825, when he was unanimously elected to fill that honourable position in the Church.

During the same year the Rev. John Charles of Garvock made a bequest of £50 for the education of poor children in the parish, to be managed by the

kirk-session. Mr Charles was a native of the parish, and was born in 1769. He graduated at Marischal College in 1792, and was long schoolmaster of the parish of Glenbervie. He was ordained assistant and successor to the minister of Garvock in 1821, and entered on the full enjoyment of the benefice only in 1836. He died 17th November 1868, in the ninety-ninth year of his age. Unlike a family bearing the same name, but to whom he was not related, and who were strong supporters of the Episcopal Church at Laurencekirk, Mr Charles was a rigid Presbyterian. He was the author of 'The Protestant's Hand-book,' published in 1855.

In 1829, Dr Cook resigned the church and parish, in consequence of his induction as Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of St Andrews. On the occasion, the session recorded a tribute of their high estimation of his character, the value of his instructions, and his amiable qualities in private life, —their sense of his eminent talents, and an expression of their good wishes.

His wife was Diana, younger daughter of the Rev. Alex. Shank. Two of his sons, John and George, have been Moderators of the General Assembly; and Alex. Shank, another son, filled the office of Procurator of the Church for a number of years with great distinction. Dr Cook died at St Andrews 13th May 1845, in the seventy-third year of his age.

John Cook, A.M., succeeded his uncle. His father was Professor of Divinity in St Andrews, and his mother a daughter of Principal Hill—another name of distinction in the Church of Scotland.

Mr Cook was in his twenty-second year when he be-

came minister of Laurencekirk, having been ordained on the 3d September 1829. Being a man of scholarly acquirements, conversant with the laws of the Church, and of excellent business qualifications, he very early assumed a position of influence, both in the parish and in the inferior Church courts. He was an acknowledged leader of the Presbytery and Synod of the bounds during the greater part of his ministry, and he took an active part in the discussions which preceded the Disruption of 1843. His pastoral work had rooted him so deeply in the affections of his people, that in 1845, when it was first proposed to translate him to St Leonard's parish, St Andrews, there was a universal feeling of dissatisfaction; and a strong remonstrance against his removal was made in the shape of an address from the parishioners, which was presented in a public meeting, of which Mr Gibbon was chairman. But the process of translation had gone too far to be consistently delayed; and a minute of 28th September 1845 bears that "he preached his farewell sermon to a congregation deeply afflicted at the loss of one who had laboured among them for the long period of sixteen years with the greatest diligence and faithfulness."

From the University of St Andrews he received the degree of D.D. in 1848; and he continued to take an increasing interest in the affairs of the Church. He was convener of several committees, among which was that on Education, on which his time and influence were brought especially to bear. In 1859 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly, and the following year he was appointed to the Chair of Divinity and Church History in St Andrews Uni-

versity. Failing health soon encroached upon his duties as a professor, and he died in 1869. His wife was Rachel Susan, daughter of William Farquhar, a brother of Mr Farquhar of Johnston, and their family consisted of five daughters.

James MacGowan, A.M., was the next minister. On the translation of Mr Cook, the College of St Mary's, patrons of the church and parish, departed from their usual course of selecting one who had been a student of St Andrews when the right of presentation to a charge devolved upon them. They were influenced to this by the knowledge that a great sacrifice had been made by the congregation at Laurencekirk, and by the fact that Mr MacGowan's merits, which had casually come under their notice, were such as to recommend him as a fitting successor to one who had been so long an acceptable minister. The years of Mr MacGowan's ministry, as they advanced, gave increasing proofs of the just estimate which they had formed of his character and qualifications.

He was a native of the parish of Kilmadock, in which he was born in 1806. He was a student and graduate of the University of Glasgow. In 1840 he was appointed assistant and successor in the parish of Bonhill, from which office he was translated to the charge at Laurencekirk. His ministry gave fewer opportunities than his predecessor's had done of taking part in the larger questions of ecclesiastical history; but he brought great ability and diligence to bear upon the business which occupied the attention of the inferior Church courts. He was a respected and influential member of the Presbytery and Synod,

and for a number of years was the active head of the important work of church endowment. His genial and kindly disposition commended him to the esteem and affection of all in the parish; and his death, which took place in 1872, was universally regretted.

Charles Morrison, A.M., a native of Cupar, studied at St Andrews University. His first charge was the church at Newington, Edinburgh. In 1857 he was appointed a military chaplain, and, after fourteen years' service in India, was elected by the congregation, and presented by St Mary's College, to the church and parish of Laurencekirk.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

When Episcopacy was disestablished in Scotland in 1689, and the National Church became Presbyterian, the malcontents in Laurencekirk were in singularly favourable circumstances. There was no change of ministration for the next few years, the incumbent being an ardent Episcopalian and energetic supporter of the royal house of Stewart. When superseded in 1693, the likelihood is that Mr William Dunbar was followed by the parishioners of his own way of thinking, to form together an Episcopal congregation, of which he continued to be the minister. There is no record of a chapel in this connection, though it is known that one existed at

the Rebellion of 1745. The long delay in the appointment of a successor makes it probable that he continued to utilise the parish church, in the interests of Episcopacy, several years after his extrusion. Ruddiman was parochial teacher at the time; and, though he was no polemic in ecclesiastical matters, his attachment to Episcopacy must have tended in many ways to uphold the minister's influence.

Mr Shepherd's incumbency had all throughout tasted of the discomfort of having his predecessor in the kirk an active rival in the parish. For many years the Hanoverian succession was not very favourably or generally accepted in the parish and neighbourhood. When the course of events brought the Pretender himself on the scene, considering the state of feeling in his favour, it is not to be wondered at that Mr Dunbar and his brother curates betrayed a little of the "uppishness" of which Mr Archer complained. His intrusion at Montrose bespeaks the active interest he must have taken on the side of rebellion at Laurencekirk; and its immediate consequence was formal deposition from the ministry. He had probably not ceased altogether from ministering to those of his own persuasion. But as he was approaching seventy years of age before he was deposed, it is not likely that he had continued long in the duties of what must have been a difficult charge. In 1726, three years before his death, Mr Taylor was minister of the Episcopal Church, and there is mention of him again in 1738. Little more is known either of his charge or himself. He may have been a native of the parish, and a *protégé* of Mr Dunbar, there having been a family of the name

at Kilnhill, of whose attachment to Episcopacy there is evidence.

Alexander Cheyne had succeeded Mr Taylor previous to 1744. He held a mandate, dated at Dundee the 27th June 1744, from the Bishop of Brechin, authorising him to convocate the Rev. Messrs Leith (presbyter at Boghall, near the House of Arbuthnott, where there was a place of worship), Petry (Drumlithie), and Troup (Muchalls), together with John Ramsay, presbyter at Stonehaven, "presbyterially at such times and places as he the said Mr Alexander Cheyne shall think convenient, and to preside among them, and to nominate a clerk, in order to concert matters relating to discipline," and to examine candidates "for the weighty office of the sacred ministry." It does not appear how long Mr Cheyne performed the duties of the charge. But as Mr Lunan, presbyter at Northwater Bridge, celebrated the Communion at Laurencekirk on the 29th December 1745, he may have been removed previous to that date. Mr Lunan's duties at Northwater Bridge on the day in question were performed by John Strachan, then a deacon, who in all likelihood ministered occasionally in the parish several years before his settlement.

When the Duke of Cumberland was on his way north suppressing the Rebellion of 1745, or on his return, the Episcopal Church at Laurencekirk was one of those which were committed to the flames, either by his express order or at the instance of his more zealous soldiers. It may seem to have been a harsh proceeding; but it must be remembered that every such building was for the time a kind of

centre-point in the district, from which emerged the disorders which it was his task to quell. The churches at Drumlithie and Stonehaven shared a like fate, and the three congregations were driven to such resort as was most convenient. They had also to contend with the provisions of an Act of Parliament, "intituled, An Act to more effectually prohibit and prevent pastors or ministers from officiating in Episcopal meeting-houses in Scotland without duly qualifying themselves according to law; and to punish persons for resorting to any meeting-houses where such unqualified pastors or ministers shall officiate."

The 'Black Book of Kincardineshire' records that, "At Stonehyve, the thirty-first day of October, One thousand seven hundred and forty-six years, in presence of John Young, Esquire, Sheriff-Depute of Kincardineshire, a number of witnesses from all parts of the county appeared, to give their oaths upon the number of Episcopal meeting-houses within the said county." In the number convened were John Beattie, at Powburn; Peter Clark, at Mill of Haulkerton; John Beattie, at Mill of Haulkerton; and David Taylor, in Kilnhill,—"who being all solemnly sworn, and each of them interrogated whether or not they knew if there was any Episcopal meeting-house, or meeting, assembly, or congregation, within the shire of Kincardineshire, where five or more persons did assemble or meet together to hear divine service, over and above those of the household in any house where a family was inhabiting, or if there was any house or place within the said shire not inhabited by a family where any such five or more persons did

assemble and meet together to hear divine service, and where divine service was performed by a pastor or minister, being of or professing to be of the Episcopal communion since the first day of September last, They all deponed negative, and that was the truth as they should answer to God."

For a number of years after the destruction of their chapel, the Episcopalians met for divine service, as regularly as possible, at Mill of Haulkerton. The baptismal register shows that the ordinance was performed there, or at Laurencekirk, from September 1747 to December 1759.

There was a meeting of the "mannagers of the Episcopell congragation" held at "Mill of Haulkertoun" 4th June 1753, when a declaration was drawn up in "consideration that there appointed meetings have not hitherto been regallarely attended by severals of the members thereof," and containing an obligation to attend the future half-yearly and other meetings, or "forfeit two shillings and sixpence sterling for the first offence, and three shillings forsaid for the second and subsequant offenciss," provided a reasonable excuse was not sent, and sustained by the managers present. This declaration is subscribed in the minute-book by the following managers: "Will. Crookshank, John Beattie, John Hanton, Adam Greig, John Beattie, Alexr. Smith, Alexr. Beattie, Robert Low, James Simpson, Robert Low, John Murray, Robert Blacklaws, Alexander Duthie, David Beattie, David Valentine, A. B., John Strachan, Peter Clark, George Imray, George Watson, William Murray, John Watson." In November 1755, the obligation was renewed, the attendance being still irregular, and the

page subscribed by nearly the whole of the above parties, and by others whose subscriptions seem to have been made at a much later period, closing with the name of Robert Spark.

A mission in connection with the church was established in 1760 at East Redmyre, or Bridge of Leppie, under the same clergyman, John Strachan, a native of Garvock, and son of the farmer at Redford, who had officiated in the parish since 1752. During his incumbency at Redmyre he was himself farmer of the Bush, St Cyrus. His whereabouts during the Rebellion had been frequently a matter of interest to the authorities, and the farmhouse at Redford was visited on one occasion by a company of soldiers in search of him. The farmer replied to the inquiries about his son, "He rose from his bed in my house this morning, but God knows where he is now!" He may have qualified afterwards by taking the oath to Government, though submission to the test was strongly disapproved by the more pronounced Episcopalians. Eppy Bisset, the fisherwoman at Stonehaven, expressed the feelings of many of her class when she bewailed what she deemed the weakness of the last Earl Marischal. His temporary return to Scotland implying this degree of submission, her first exclamation on seeing him was, "Ah, wae's me! has he swallowed the gollachie?"

Mr Strachan had passed his trials at Laurencekirk the 16th August 1744, and been recommended to the Bishop "as a person fit to be entered into holy orders." He had probably succeeded Mr Cheyne in the ministry at Laurencekirk. The first notice of him in connection with the charge is in an "Acct.

of seats set by the managers in Mr Strachan's house [which was at Mill of Haulkerton], and commencing at Martinmas 1752 years, each seat set at four shillings yearly." During the years 1756-58 there is a separate list of about half-a-dozen persons who had "seats sett in the inner house at two shillings each." From 1753 the regularity, with which collections for the poor and for ordinary purposes are recorded, shows that they had met with comparatively little interruption. The only blanks indicating perhaps troublous episodes were in 1759, when the Sundays between 21st January and 1st April, and those from 3d June to 19th August, are unaccounted for.

There is a list of persons "cathecised" in Lent in the years 1753, 1754, and 1756. The number of persons confirmed by Bishop Rait was, in 1752, probably at Laurencekirk, forty-eight; in 1755, at Mill of Haulkerton, fourteen; in 1758, also at Mill of Haulkerton, nineteen; and in 1765, at East Redmyre, seventy-one. In the case of all the ordinances of which a record is kept, the persons presenting themselves were from all the surrounding parishes.

Though the meeting-house was changed to Redmyre in 1760, the congregation of worshippers continued practically the same, as is evidenced by lists of the regular recipients of alms. Mr Strachan, though residing for the most part at the Bush, regularly ministered to the congregation, and was active besides in the general interests of the Church. For several years he held the Bishop's mandate to act as preses at the meetings of presbyters, and in 1777 he

is designated "The Very Rev. Mr John Strachan, Dean for the District of Brechin." The following year another of the presbyters held the office of dean. On the death of Bishop Rait in 1777, he might have been elected his successor; but he declined the preferment on that occasion.

Mr Strachan accepted a call from the Episcopal congregation in Dundee in 1780. Eight years after, he was consecrated Bishop of Brechin, but he continued to reside in Dundee, where he died on the 2d February 1810, in the ninety-first year of his age. He was succeeded in the Redmyre mission by Robert Spark, the son of a dyer at Craigo Works, who ministered there for a number of years. Episcopacy was still under proscription, and the utmost secrecy had to be observed in administering the rites of the Church. Information had been lodged against Mr Spark, who was tried at the circuit court for having performed the marriage-rite. When on his way riding between Aberdeen and Stonehaven, he passed the couple whom he had united, who were bent on the same errand, and accosted them, "This will be a sair day for me." "Ow! fou will it be that, minister? fa can say I'm mairried?" replied the man; and his anticipation was realised. No witnesses compeared, and the case fell to the ground. Mr Spark continued some years at Redmyre, residing in the house of Kair, and discharging the twofold duties of pastor and schoolmaster. He was called subsequently to be minister at Drumlithie; and on his removal the mission at Redmyre was discontinued, the congregation being divided between the congregations at Drumlithie and Laurencekirk.

A church had meanwhile been erected in the village, and a congregation formed. This was at the instance of Lord Gardenstone, and more the result of pique at the parish minister than the outcome of any higher motive. The bishops and clergy in Scotland were to meet, and deliberate on an appeal to Government for the abrogation of the penal laws under which they were laid, and Laurencekirk was fixed as the place of meeting. Lord Gardenstone, though a Presbyterian, favoured the object, and he was proud that his own burgh had been selected. Anxious that every attention should be shown to members of the Convention, he wrote the parish minister, asking him to entertain one or two in the manse, as there was little room in the inn. Mr Forbes, not being so hearty in the cause, replied that he would not, adding that he "liked to see neither them nor their houses." His lordship's remark on receiving the letter was, "Very well, he'll soon see both;" and shortly after, a site was marked out for a new building. It does not justify the minister's inhospitality to express regret that Lord Gardenstone had no other grounds than a petty revenge for the erection and endowment of a chapel, which for the next eighty years was the place of worship to the Episcopal congregation.

The 'Laurencekirk Episcopal Register' contains the following note on its dedication to St Laurence: "The original chapel dedicated to his memory stood at Chapelfield, St Cyrus; but having fallen into decay and total ruin, the dedication was *revived* in this edifice, when, after passing the first Disabilities Act for Episcopacy in Scotland in 1790-92, Lord

Gardenstone erected this church, and in it were collected the scattered members of the old loyal Jacobite congregations of St Cyrus, Redmyre, Luthermuir, and Conveth."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH—(*continued*).

In a letter to the Right Reverend Dr William Abernethy Drummond, Lord Gardenstone sets forth the following conditions of endowment, premising that he had been induced to the act, "now that you have publicly conformed to the Revolution system and establishment of Government:"—

"1. The church or chapel might be originally built, and in future times repaired and rebuilt when necessary, by contributions of the congregation and others, in which I and my heirs shall bear a handsome share.

"2. I and my heirs and successors shall be bound to furnish a competent manse and a moderate glebe, subject to the same rules and regulations in all time coming, with regard to the obligations incumbent on my heirs and successors, and on the successive incumbents, as take place with regard to heritors of parishes and incumbents in the Established Kirk of Scotland.

"3. I bind and oblige myself, my heirs and successors above-mentioned, to pay to every incumbent duly presented in all time coming, as a stipend, £40

sterling in money, and forty bolls of good and sufficient oatmeal yearly,—the money stipends to be paid at two terms yearly, Whitsunday and Martinmass; and the victual to be delivered at the usual terms of delivery in that country to the Established clergy. As the Episcopal minister shall also have right to the seat-rents of the church or chapel, I suppose, on the whole, he will have a decent and frugally hospitable living, which it is my intention he should have.

"4. I reserve to myself during my life the sole right of presentation, and as I am without delay to nominate and present a minister for this charge, I declare that the first moiety of stipend shall be paid for the term immediately preceding at Martinmass 1791, and so on as above expressed.

"5. As to a future rule of presentation after my decease, I am very desirous to converse with you, and to show a just regard to the constitution of your Church, as well as to prevent by proper regulations all symonaical practices. But in case this matter of future presentation is not fixed in my own lifetime, I leave it to be determined by a general assembly of the Scotch Episcopal clergy, to be called at any time by the Bishop of Edinburgh for the time being, and to meet at Laurencekirk.

"*Lastly*, I declare the several articles above expressed to be binding on me, and my said heirs and successors, by this my holograph missive, written by my own hand, and subscribed by me, on this and the two preceding pages, at my villa of Morningside, this 9th day of February 1790."

The right of patronage was subsequently determined as follows: "Proprietors of Johnston shall

have the right of patronage to be exercised upon vacancies within six months of each vacancy, with the consent and concurrence of two or three of the senior clergymen of the Episcopal clergymen of the said Episcopal Church, the patron being entitled to choose any two of the six senior clergy. If such election is not duly made within six months after any vacancy, the right of election shall devolve on the chief magistrate of Laurencekirk; and if he fails for three months more to elect, the right shall devolve on the burgesses of Laurencekirk of Episcopal persuasion, it being understood that such devolving right of election is only to subsist *per vices* and without prejudice of the patron's permanent right."

Jonathan Watson, a native of Banffshire, was presented by Lord Gardenstone in 1791. He filled the charge with credit, leaving behind him a name cherished in the affections of his people and the respect of the community. The year after his settlement in Laurencekirk he was elected Bishop of Dunkeld, the duties of the diocese not interfering with his pastoral charge. He married Catherine Margaret Edgar, eldest daughter of the laird of Keithock. A son, John, died at sea in 1840, aged thirty-six years, and a daughter, Mary, still survives in Edinburgh. Mrs Watson survived her husband until 1845, when she died in Brechin, in the eighty-second year of her age. The Bishop died comparatively a young man in 1808. He was interred in the churchyard, where a table-shaped stone, with a Latin inscription, records the esteem in which he lived and the regret which followed his death. The friendly terms on which he had lived with the parish minister were acknow-

ledged by his widow, who intrusted the drawing-up of the inscription to Dr George Cook and Dr Fordyce. It was submitted to Bishop John Skinner, who returned it unaltered with his hearty approval. The following is the inscription, with the translation appended :—

> "Viro admodum Reverendo Jonathan Watson, in Ecclesia Scotiæ Episcopo, pietatis aliarumque virtutum vere evangelicarum æmulo ; in bonis literis, inque theologia exercitato ; animo firmo ; filio, patri, conjugi amantissimo. Sui omnibus officii sacri muneribus per 17 annos apud Laurencekirk fideliter functus, multum defletus obiit 28 die Janu. 1808, annum 46 agens. Vidua et mater mœrentes H. M. P."

> "To the Very Reverend Jonathan Watson, Bishop of the Church in Scotland, distinguished for his piety and other truly evangelical virtues ; conversant with good literature and theology ; firm of purpose ; a most loving son, father, husband. Having discharged with faithfulness all the duties of his sacred office at Laurencekirk for seventeen years, he died much lamented on the 28th day of January 1808, in his 46th year. His widow and mother in sorrow erected this monument."

On the death of Bishop Watson, James Farquhar failed to exercise his right of presentation within the prescribed time. John Scott, chief magistrate, then executed a deed of presentation in favour of the Right Reverend Dr William Abernethy Drummond, who, it was not unreasonably complained, "resided in Edinburgh, was in the eighty-ninth year of his age, and completely bedridden, so that he could never reside in Laurencekirk, and of course was utterly incapable to fulfil that condition, on which alone any person is capable of being presented to the said charge." In due course the *jus devolutum* was

exercised by John Charles, James Strachan, John Jaffray, and Charles Stiven, with advice and consent of Bishops Skinner and Jolly.

William Milne, A.M., was the clergyman on whom their choice fell. He began ministerial life at the Episcopal station at Muchalls, from which he was transferred to act as assistant to Bishop Strachan in Dundee. During his incumbency at Laurencekirk an altar-piece was gifted to the chapel by one of his fellow-students—Mr Mitchell, at Bath. According to Mr Jervise, the subject "is said by some to be the presentation of the Virgin in the Temple—by others, St Laurence. Whatever the picture may represent, there is no doubt as to its being a fine work of art, possibly by Nicholas Poussin, to whose broad and telling style it bears a striking resemblance." Mr Milne performed the duties of the charge until his death in 1817, and his memory was perpetuated by the erection of a monument with a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:—

> "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. William Milne, A.M., Presbyter of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, who for about eight years discharged the duties of Pastor at Laurencekirk. He was distinguished for his piety, modesty, and courtesy of manners, and died unmarried in 1817, in the 42d year of his age and 20th of his ministry. His reverend brethren in the Diocese of Brechin erected this monument."

Robert Spark, who had previously officiated at Redmyre, was translated from Drumlithie to St Laurence Chapel in 1817. He performed the active duties of the charge for sixteen years, when he resigned them to an assistant, and died in 1837,

in the eighty-first year of his age and the fifty-seventh of his ministry. Next year he was followed to the grave by his wife, Jean Beattie, a native of the parish, who was born at Mill of Haulkerton in 1762. Mrs Spark's family, which was distantly related to the family of the poet, had been tenants at Mill of Haulkerton from the beginning of the eighteenth century.

John Spark, a son, was a surgeon in the East India Company's service, and he died at Bombay in 1829. Three daughters, Jean, Margaret, and Catherine, survived until recent years. They possessed many interesting relics of the olden time, and their minds were stored with information on the more prominent events of the last century, and about the principal families of the county. Their Jacobite leanings were retained until the end of their days, but never offensively obtruded. Miss Margaret showed a portrait to a friend, asking, as she held it out, "Do you know who that is?" "Oh yes; it's the young Pretender!" was the mischievous reply. She held up both hands in amazement, exclaiming, "What!" "I mean, it's Prince Charles Edward Stuart." She calmed immediately—"Ay, that *may* do."

J. Oldfield was the first assistant appointed to Mr Spark. He was appointed in 1833, and remained about a year.

Walter Mitchell Goalen succeeded Mr Oldfield in the assistantship, and to the full charge at the death of Mr Spark. He performed the duties until 1852, when he removed to Trinity, near Edinburgh. Mr Goalen and his wife, who had been Miss Gladstone, were cousins, and they both stood in the same rela-

tionship to Sir Thomas Gladstone, Bart. of Fasque, whose seat is in the neighbourhood, and whose younger brother, the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone, is the present British Prime Minister.

The more recent incumbents of St Laurence Chapel, and the dates of their appointment, are as follow:—Joseph Haskoll, M.A., 1852; Henry St John Howard, M.A., 1854; Joseph William Hunter, 1863; Francis Patrick Flemyng, LL.D.—in whose ministry the present chapel was erected, after plans by Mr Ross, architect, Inverness—1870; William Walker, 1871; and Henry D'Arcy Simpson.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

CHURCHES—(*continued*).

The other religious communities in the parish are, with one exception, of recent origin, and a brief sketch of the respective congregations is all that will be necessary in these pages.

THE BEREANS.

The parish of Fettercairn enjoys the distinction, such as it is, of having been the birthplace of a new sect of religionists. John Barclay, A.M., son of a farmer in Perthshire, was appointed assistant to the

parish minister in 1763. His popular gifts recommended him to the congregation, but his antinomian principles led to his virtual expulsion from the Church. This was hastened by the death of the minister, and the determination of the large body of the people to have him appointed successor. It was not a consequence of the Patronage Act, as has been alleged; for no system of popular election could have effected the settlement of a man not duly accredited by the superior courts of the Church.

Robert Foote having been appointed to the vacant charge, Mr Barclay's followers seceded, to form under his ministry the first Berean congregation. The name was assumed from the ancient Bereans, whose example they professed to follow in building their faith upon Scripture, and Scripture alone. A place of worship was erected at Sauchieburn. The glowing accounts which have been given of its early prosperity may be taken with a discount; but it is certain that the next few years it was a large congregation, gathered from the discontented in Fettercairn and sympathising friends in other parishes.

Mr Barclay continued only a few months in the charge, which was filled in 1775 by James Macrae, a licentiate of the Church, who had imbibed his opinions. Mr Foote's acceptable ministrations, together with the waning enthusiasm of the first Bereans, reduced the congregation very much within a short period; and when Mr Macrae retired from the charge early in the century, he was succeeded by Mr M'Kinnon, a Congregationalist. Mr Macrae took up his residence in Laurencekirk, where there had already been established one of the branches into

which his congregation had been split. He died in 1813. One of his grandsons was afterwards the founder of the Congregationalist body in Laurencekirk. Another, David Macrae, was lately a source of anxiety to the leaders of the United Presbyterian Church, and is now ministering to a congregation in Dundee which as yet has assumed no distinctive name.

The Bereans began about 1801 to meet for worship in a private house. In course of time money was advanced by James Robb, shopkeeper, one of their number, for the building of a chapel, which was erected close upon the site of the present infant school. Mr Robb had succeeded his father in the business. His mother was a Carnegie, daughter of the tenant of Droniemyre. His brother, Dr Robb, was for a number of years a practitioner in the village, and a stanch Berean. He married a Miss Buchanan from Stirling, and his eldest son James became a professor in New York. Dr Robb died about 1820.

The Berean church was a humble edifice, seated for about forty or fifty people, and was never too small for the congregation, which was made up from the parishes of Fettercairn, Marykirk, Garvock, St Cyrus, and Fordoun. Peter Brymer, who executed the carpentry, when he had completed the pulpit was requested by two of the leading members to show them how he could preach. Peter at once gave them a specimen of his oratory, commencing with a text, which he gravely pronounced, pointing meanwhile to the more prominent of his auditors: "Saul, the son of Kish, went out to seek his father's asses, and *lo! two of them.*" The story having reached the ear of

Dr Cook, he saluted Peter the first opportunity, "Well, brother preacher!" "Na, na," replied he; "I leave that to you 'at's got a guid steepin."

Alexander Rae, the first Berean pastor, was a farmer at Law of Craigo. David Low, shoemaker at Laurencekirk, succeeded. When asked by a curious neighbour what stipend the congregation allowed him, he replied, "I get nae steepin; they dinna even come to me for their shoon!"

John Todd, farmer at Butterybraes, was the next pastor. His discourses were alike practical and seasonable. About the time of Yule he never failed to warn his audience: "My frien's, beware o' cairds an' dice, an' that bewitchin' thing the totum." The majority of his hearers were probably on the safe side of "threescore years and ten" to give the caution due effect.

William Taylor, carrier at Fettercairn, was at first associated with John, and afterwards sole pastor. His services are still lively in the recollection of the older inhabitants. They were of a homely description, making up in fervour for any lack of polish. While his colleague survived, the duties of the day were occasionally divided. When William had performed his share, he usually ended with a remark such as, "Noo, John, ye'll come up an' lat's see daylicht through the Romans." His exhortations were not unfrequently varied by questions on the most ordinary subjects, addressed to one or other of the congregation. He was a firm believer in the paramount excellence of Bereanism to the last of his days. He died a few years ago in Fettercairn.

The weekly service was continued until about

1840. Soon afterwards the kirk and site were disposed of for the sum of £14 sterling. The congregation was speedily reduced to two aged females. When one of them had gone to her long home, the other remarked with feeling, "Ah, sir! when I ging too, the Bereans'll be clean licket aff!"

THE CONGREGATIONALISTS.

A congregation was formed in connection with the Congregational Union of Scotland in 1841. The services were held for more than a year in the town-hall, and on the 16th October 1842 the present chapel was opened for public worship. The founder of the congregation was David Moir.

The family to which Mr Moir belonged had for several generations been resident at Waterside of Thornton. His grandfather, David Moir, had been a prominent member of the Berean congregation at Sauchieburn, holding the two offices of deacon and precentor. His father, also David Moir, was at first attached to the same congregation, and married the daughter of Mr Macrae, the pastor. They afterwards joined the United Secession Church, and to that persuasion Mr Moir adhered until a short time previous to his entering on the ministry.

David Moir was born at Waterside in 1817. He received his elementary education chiefly in Laurencekirk, being first under the charge of Mr Wood, and then at the parish school. He gave early promise of good scholarship, and from boyhood he was impressed with a strong desire to be a missionary. When be-

tween thirteen and fourteen years of age, he was apprenticed to a draper in Montrose; but he never ceased to cherish the hope of qualifying himself for the ministry. Before the term of his apprenticeship expired he was released from his engagement, and soon after he opened a school at Waterside. By diligence in his studies he fitted himself for entering college, and was enrolled among the students of St Andrews University in 1835. On completing his third session, not without distinction, he received an appointment from the United Secession Church as a catechist at one of their mission stations in Jamaica, for which he departed in September 1838. He discharged the duties of that office with much acceptance for less than two years, when the state of his health demanded his return to Scotland, where he arrived in October 1840. On his return home he resigned his appointment, and at the same time his connection with the United Seceders. Next year he completed his curriculum at St Andrews, and continued his studies with a view to becoming a minister of the Congregational Church. He had intended to complete his theological course at a hall connected with the denomination, when a few Laurencekirk friends invited him to settle among them, and begin his ministry.

Mr Moir was ordained in January 1842, when he was twenty-four years of age. His labours were most assiduous, and they extended far beyond the limits of the parish, comprising services almost daily in some of the surrounding parishes. The necessity of procuring funds for the erection of the chapel multiplied his exertions, which were carried much farther than

was warranted by the state of his health. He was an earnest and impressive preacher; and though his congregation never increased to any extent, his evening services, both in the town-hall and in the chapel, were attended by large audiences. In the autumn of 1845 he removed to South Shields; and after checkered experiences there, and at Rothbury, he returned to Scotland in 1855, to assume the office of superintendent of the Edinburgh City Mission. Though possessed of many qualifications for that important office, he lacked the physical strength to uphold him in its arduous duties. Soon he lay prostrate on a dying bed, and he breathed his last on the 11th of March 1856.

Mr Moir's successors at Laurencekirk have been,—David Webster, a native of the district; Adam Stuart Muir, now Dr Muir, minister of Trinity Free Church, Leith; Andrew Noble, and David Smith.

THE FREE CHURCH.

The institution of the Free Church in Scotland forms part of the ecclesiastical history of the nation, and a brief notice of the congregation representing it in the parish is all that is essential in these pages.

The agitation which has come to be known by the name of the "Ten years' conflict" took no firm hold in Laurencekirk. The esteem in which John Cook was held had doubtless favoured the particular views regarding the constitution of the Church, of which he was the able and zealous advocate in the Church courts. The most prominent of the measures adopted

by the promoters of the opposite policy was a meeting in the Congregational chapel, shortly before the Disruption, at which delegates were present from the party now represented by the Free Church. The deputation consisted of—William Wilson of Carmylie, now Dr Wilson, one of the principal clerks of the Free Assembly; and James Lumsden of Barrie, the late Dr Lumsden, Principal of the Free Church College at Aberdeen. The chapel was crowded, and when those gentlemen had expounded the principles which they had come to advocate, an invitation was given to all who were disposed to cast in their lot with the party about to secede, to adhibit their names to documents which were in readiness for the purpose. At this stage of the proceedings, Mr Cook, who was present at the request of a few members of his congregation, rose and delivered a speech in defence of what he held to be the true principles of the Church of Scotland, in course of which he warned his people not to be rash in their decision. When he had finished speaking he left the chapel, and, while he was retiring, a well-known voice was heard exclaiming, "Follow your minister!" A large portion of the audience followed,—some of whom, it was believed, would, but for this episode, have committed themselves to the Free Church party.

For some time after the Secession the services of the new congregation were conducted in the town-hall. The first minister was Charles Glass. A church, meanwhile, was erected in Farquhar Street, in which the congregation continued to worship until the year 1857, when the existing Free Church was built.

Differences having arisen between Mr Glass and members of the congregation, which the Presbytery when appealed to failed to compose, an agreement was at length concluded, according to which he resigned the charge, and was succeeded in 1851 by the present incumbent, David Simpson.

For many years the congregation, aided by the usual Parliamentary grants, supported a highly efficient school, which came to be incorporated with the public schools under management of the School Board.

BAPTISTS.

The only denomination which remains to be noticed, as having been represented in the parish since the time of the Reformation, is that of the Baptists. A small congregation was formed in connection with that body in the year 1859, by the late William Johnston, Mill of Kincardine. It continued for some years under successive pastors, and holding its services in the Masons' Lodge. The congregation was dissolved in 1879.

CHAPTER XXXV.

SCHOOLMASTERS.

William Dunbar, A.M., was the first schoolmaster of the parish of whom any record exists. He was appointed to the office probably in 1670, and

resigned it when presented to the cure of the parish in 1677. Further particulars of his history will be found among the records of the parish ministers.

Alexander Fularton succeeded. In a footnote, p. 17 of 'The Life of Thomas Ruddiman,' there is reference to a gravestone, then to be seen, in the churchyard, "containing a very long Latin inscription on the body of Alexander Fularton, schoolmaster, who died in August 1691." This was probably the immediate successor of Mr Dunbar; but nothing beyond this reference has been discovered of Mr Fularton himself, or his connection with the parish. He may have been related to "John Ffullerton, in Blackmore," who was ordained an elder in the parish in 1706.

Patrick Bellie, if he was the immediate successor in the office, must have entered upon its duties at a very early age—his tombstone bearing that he died in 1695, in his twenty-first year. The name was a common one in the neighbouring county of Forfar; and it is not improbable that he belonged to one of the families there which was otherwise connected with the parish. Elizabeth Lawson, a niece of the tenant of Whitesauch, was married to James Bailie, wright, at Old Montrose; and in 1739 a minute of kirk-session has reference to an Alexander Baillie, factor for Lord Haulkerton. The difference in spelling is not against this supposition, as the three forms applied to the same name during a great part of the century.

Thomas Ruddiman, A.M.—A detailed account of this distinguished scholar, and his connection with the parish, will be found elsewhere.

Patrick Falconer's appointment may have imme-

diately followed Ruddiman's removal to Edinburgh in 1700; but it is two years until the first notice of him appears. On the 26th April 1702 he was admitted session-clerk, with a salary of twenty merks. It is recorded that "he brought testificat from the parioch of Dyke," in Morayshire, of which county he may have been a native. Four years later a curious minute appears, indicating that the schoolmaster had been wont to pay rent to the kirk-session for the use either of the school or of his dwelling-apartment: "24*th February* 1706.—This day the session, considering the school-chambers as possessed by their clerk, did condescend to the amount of their money (seven pounds Scots, which they suppose was payed for it), but judging it hard for him to pay anything for it, did not exact the amount of the sd. seven pounds."

It is not recorded in what manner Mr Falconer acquitted himself in the discharge of his scholastic duties. Unhappily, he failed otherwise to honour the "testificat from Dyke," if its testimony had been of any value. In the interval between the death of Mr Shepherd and the appointment of his successor, the schoolmaster had not been a very exemplary head in the parish. About two-thirds of a certain page in the minute-book presents a clean sheet accounted for by this significant note: "22*d January* 1710.—What follows of this page is left blank because of some things that are wanting, both as to the poors-money, and in the matter of discipline, through the neglect of Mr Patrick Falconer, late session-clerk, who went of in the time of the vacancie."

An additional reason for his temporary flight

appears at a subsequent period, when he had to offer satisfaction to the kirk-session for another misdemeanour.

Robert Mortimer, on the 10th of February 1710, was chosen to be session-clerk. He had previously been appointed schoolmaster of the parish by the heritors and Presbytery. His tenure of office extended over an unsettled period. It was difficult for men in public situations to hold aloof from the disturbing influences which culminated in the Rebellion of 1715. Schoolmasters were specially prone to be carried away in spite of themselves, though a few joined the cause of disloyalty with hearty goodwill. Mr Mortimer, it appears, was among the number who had been constrained, by fear or other corrupting influence, to minister to the desires of the rebels, notwithstanding that his general conduct had been in favour of the other side. This appears from the letter of the parish minister which has been quoted elsewhere. In reference to a meeting of Presbytery to which schoolmasters and precentors were summoned to give an account of their conduct during the Rebellion, Mr Archer wrote:—

"The schoolmasters were called. Some of them, but few, had kept their ground, and were approven. Others had been carried off with the temptation, and were appointed to make acknowledgment of their fall before the congregation, *of which sort mine was one. And though I understood and did testify that he was forced to it but one day, and that he had all the while been most useful in my concerns—in short, said all that I could for him—there was no saving of him.* There was a third sort who had, without any force,

gone in with the measures of the rebels, by reading their papers, &c.; and one of this stamp compeared, and was deposed, from which you may guess what will become of the rest."

Mr Mortimer continued a few years longer in office, his removal from which is not accounted for, and indicated only by the minute of appointment in favour of his successor. He was probably the Robert Mortimer, messenger, husband to Susanna Smith, who, according to a tombstone, died in 1734, aged 46 years.

James Milne, a native of Cairnbeg, who had previously entered on the office of schoolmaster, was elected precentor and session-clerk on the 25th of November 1720. After many years of service, he had the honour of being the first teacher of Dr Beattie. An interesting reference to this appears in the Life of the poet by Sir William Forbes: "The parish school of Lawrence-Kirk was at that time of some reputation; and it was rendered the more remarkable by being the same in which Ruddiman, the celebrated grammarian, had taught about forty years before. When young Beattie attended it, this school was taught by a person of the name of Milne, whom he used to represent as a good grammarian, and tolerably skilled in the Latin language, but destitute of taste, as well as of some other qualifications essential to a good teacher." Part of this qualification may be attributable to the sensitive mind of the poet, who was likely enough to find some things not very congenial in one who for a quarter of a century had been a "dominie" of the period. The representation in other respects makes

good account of the scholarship of the master who had so impressed the mind of such a pupil. It may be confessed that some countenance is given to the more disparaging reminiscences of the poet by the fact that Mr Milne is believed in his old age to have deserted his literary labours for the avocations of an innkeeper. The village inn at the time may have been in the hands of William Cruickshank; and it is said that Mr Milne opened an establishment on the site which the Royal Hotel now occupies. The probability, however, is that his son Alexander was virtually "mine host," though the father may have supplied the means and been one of the household. A daughter of Mr Milne became the wife of David Beattie, brother of the poet, and afterwards factor for Lord Gardenstone. It does not appear when he vacated the office of schoolmaster, but there was a vacancy of eighteen months in the session-clerkship prior to the appointment of his successor. So late as 1794 there is a casual reference to him as "now deceased."

John Scott, A.M., succeeded. His history is associated with the chief magistracy of the burgh, and it will be necessary to remark upon it here only in connection with his scholastic life. He was appointed session-clerk in 1761, and the same year he may have been elected schoolmaster. It is to be feared that the once high reputation of the parish school had somewhat declined under his charge, though it must be acknowledged that the more authentic accounts of his comparative efficiency can only be dated from a period when the best of his days were over. The chief element of weakness in the old

parochial school system was the want of provision for the retirement of aged schoolmasters; and the reputation of "Dominie Scott" in a former generation may have suffered from this undoubted cause of wreck to one of the noblest and best institutions of the country. The general testimony of aged parishioners half a century ago evidently bears that Mr Scott was never a very zealous or efficient teacher; and the grave charge has been brought against his tenure of office, that it was "the cause of a generation of stupids being reared in the parish." From the former conclusion it would perhaps be difficult to find escape, but the latter is too sweeping a denunciation to put with any degree of emphasis upon historical record. If it was indeed his custom to fall asleep at his desk while in school, and allow the youths under his care an opportunity of indulging their love of fun, even at the expense of the dominie's wig, it may be remembered in his favour that all the responsibilities of bailie of the burgh were upon his shoulders; and "sitting in council" in those days was a protracted sederunt, having somewhat of a soporific influence on the following day, especially in the case of an old man.

The general dissatisfaction with the conduct of the parish school led early in the century to the institution of a kind of proprietary school, which was opened at Paddockpool. Several heads of families combined for its support, having each a right of nominating a certain number of pupils. The teacher was James Thomson, A.M., who died in 1812, in the thirty-fourth year of his age.

Whatever merits Mr Thomson may have had as

a teacher, even his authority was no match for the enterprising juveniles of Laurencekirk. If they did not indulge in the pastime of pulling wigs, it was possibly because there was no wig to pull; and their love of frolic manifested itself in another way. The school-wall was lathed; but at a certain part, whether by chance or design, there existed a hole, through which the ingenious pupils were in the practice of drawing the end of a rope which they had previously attached to the rafters. The rope was passed round the leg of a form on which some girls were seated. Very frequently a sensation was produced when, by what appeared an invisible agency, the whole form of girls were found sprawling on the floor. The trick was not speedily discovered, for the simple reason that when the form was upset the rope was left free to find its usual place of concealment. The only drawback was, that it could not be produced oftener than once at a single meeting. There was never any difficulty in the way of having a boy on the rafters equal to the occasion when it presented itself.

In consequence of his increasing infirmities, an arrangement was entered into with Mr Scott, in terms of which he resigned the office of schoolmaster, and was re-elected along with William Pyper as his assistant and successor. This is almost the only case in which such an appointment was ever made, there being no provision for it in any Act of Parliament, but an indirect allusion in the Act constituting the Schoolmasters' Widows' Fund. In the month of January 1816 the session record bears: "Mr Scott, who had been schoolmaster of this parish and session-

clerk for fifty-seven years, died on the 3d of this month, in the seventy-sixth year of his age."

William Pyper, A.M., who had entered upon the office of assistant-schoolmaster in 1815, remained only for a short time in the parish, having been appointed to the parish school of Maybole, 15th May 1817. An expression of regret is recorded that "his connection with the parish of Laurencekirk, which had been attended with so much advantage to the rising generation, was so soon dissolved." He was afterwards a master of the High School of Edinburgh, from which honourable situation he was advanced, in 1844, to the Professor's Chair of Humanity in the University of St Andrews. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him, and he continued to occupy the chair until his death, which took place on 10th January 1861.

George Begg was the next schoolmaster, and he continued in the office until removed by death, 1st July 1834. For some years he also performed the duties of burgh-clerk.

William Farquhar, A.M., entered upon the duties of the session-clerkship 26th September 1834, having previously been appointed schoolmaster. He was related to Mr Farquhar of Johnston, and was the son of the Rev. Alexander Farquhar, minister of Pitsligo. He became a licentiate of the Church, and was an acceptable preacher, a revered master, and a much-respected man. On the 6th August 1843, he resigned the office of schoolmaster, having been presented to the church and parish of Forglen. His farewell appearance in the pulpit of Laurencekirk was rendered the more impressive on the audience

that its effect upon himself was overpowering. He had scarcely entered upon the duties of his new sphere when failing health unfitted him for their discharge, and he died early in the year 1845.

David Gordon Primrose Smith, A.M., a native of Aberdeen, had for some time acted as assistant in the school, to the full charge of which he was appointed on Mr Farquhar's resignation. He also was a licentiate of the Church, beloved by his pupils, and held in universal esteem. Endowed with natural gifts of a high order, and possessing an inexhaustible fund of humour, he was a genial companion, a wise counsellor, and a constant friend. Feeble health, besides impairing his usefulness in the discharge of his duties, hindered the advancement of which his great talents gave early promise, and to which those who knew him best looked forward with greatest confidence. The few years of his incumbency were sadly marred with intense suffering, from which he found relief only in death. He died at Aberdeen in 1849, and a venerable clergyman of the city, who had known him from childhood, remarked at the side of his open grave—"There lies one who, if life and health had been spared to him, would have certainly come to fill one of the highest positions in the Church of Scotland."

John Keppie was appointed schoolmaster in 1849, and the thirty years of his tenure of office have witnessed many changes which are undoubted improvements. The old parish school, with its two rows of heavy benches separated by a narrow passage—the only space available for class drill—was probably an advance upon the convenience and comfort enjoyed by Ruddiman and several of his successors. One

can only imagine now with what astonishment those worthy men would have looked upon such edifices, devoted to the art of tuition, as the public and infant schools, which are so commodious and well adapted for their respective purposes. It will be for the school boards of the future to see that these material improvements are not neutralised by any permitted decline of scholastic efficiency. It is to teachers of the stamp of Mr Keppie, and a large majority of his predecessors, that Scotland owes its reputation. With few if any exceptions, they were men with a university training, from whose tuition in these humble buildings pupils were fitted to pass directly to the classroom of a university. A well-educated teacher will surmount many material difficulties, but the most wisely designed and greatest abundance of outward appliances will never supply the deficiencies of an imperfect education on the part of an instructor.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

VILLAGE TEACHERS.

The labours of the successive schoolmasters of the century have been supplemented by a number of teachers of various degrees of efficiency. Margaret Croll, daughter of a farmer in the parish, deserves honourable mention as for many years a successful teacher in the village. A school in Johnston Street was conducted by a succession of tolerably efficient

teachers, of whom the most successful was James Menzies, who was also burgh-clerk for a term of years, and who, about 1837, removed to a more important situation in Montrose. Dominie Robb must still have a place in the memory of some of the pupils on whom, with such persevering diligence, he inculcated the necessity of learning to "sound the broad A." Tradition gives the names of one or two of earlier date—worthy men, but indifferent teachers. One was given to abstruse investigation, in the course of which he sometimes arrived at wonderful results, as when he gravely announced to his pupils one day, "Wi' a' the calculation that I can calculat', Pace *Sunday* happens on a *Fuirsday* this year." James afterwards became a shopkeeper, and carried his methodical habits from the school-desk to the counter. A customer asked him for a file of a given size and shape. The particular parcel was taken down, slowly unrolled, and, the first file being extracted, returned to its place on the shelf. "But, James, I should like to select one for myself." "Aweel"—and the parcel was once more on the counter, to be deliberately unrolled, have the file replaced in it, and be consigned again to its usual position—"aweel, is there onything else you want?" "But I haven got the file yet." "Aweel, but if you canna tak as I get it, you winna get it ava."

Another, who ultimately found a more s occupation as messenger-at-arms, was for time a teacher in the village. Whatever h qualifications may have been, they were an unfortunate defect in his speech. H combined letters *th* always as *s*, and

kirk was too mischievous not to avail itself of so striking a peculiarity. A scene like this was very common. An urchin in the course of reading spelt s-o-u-t-h. "Souse," he was told to call it, and he called it "souse." "Call it 'souse'" was the stern injunction, which young hopeful obeyed literally. The altercation continued until, with more indignation than good effect, came the final remonstrance, "Don't say as I say; say as I bid you, — say 'souse.'"

ALEXANDER WOOD.

A generation almost have grown up who were never privileged to look upon the once familiar figure of Mr Wood as it was wont to glide along the causeway between the houses and the "stripe,"— it was seldom seen on the middle of the street. But there must be many in whose opinion a history of Laurencekirk would be singularly incomplete without a sketch, however brief, of the dapper little man with whom all their earlier recollections of the burgh are associated. He was a native of Fettercairn, where he was born in 1793. He had received a fair education in his youth, and was a student for one or two sessions at Marischal College. He settled in Laurencekirk towards the close of the first quarter of the century; and his "academy," as he loved to call the comfortable buildings in which he successively taught, for a number of years a flourishing institution,— a decidedly successful rival to the parish school under the charge of Mr Begg. About 1827 he was appointed to the parish school of Garvock; and

Walter Napier, the successful competitor, than whose heart a kinder never throbbed, seemed never to cease showing favour to the rival whom he had defeated. He was long regarded as a successful teacher, but his attempts to procure a more independent and lucrative appointment had told upon his energies before the half-year's experiences on which this brief sketch is mainly founded. The reminiscences of those six months in 1844 are more amusing than suggestive of scholastic progress.

Lewis Strachan, the famous Mearns ploughman, a noted public speaker, and a man of considerable natural ability, attended the school to supplement the meagre education of his early years. He had a great respect for his own opinion, and it was amusing to hear a passage-at-arms between the excitable old teacher and the man who issued his challenges to editors of newspapers through their own columns, or on the public platform, as they had a mind to meet him. A simple sum in arithmetic was all that was needed to give the master a tremendous advantage, and he never failed to avail himself of it. "But that winna bring'd, Mr Wood." "You big country bumpkin, I have taught a school for thirty years, and I know what will bring it out better than you can tell me, I should think." A blundering boy was more easily polished off. "Davie, you blockhead, as well sup sowens wi' Johnnie ——'s elsin as teach you English grammar."

The "academy" was one of a humble row of thatched houses in the public street. Many were the calls of the street beggars, whose visits were never welcome. Two or three had been made on a

certain day, when another rap was met with the angry exclamation—"Go along, you beggar! I can't be bothered with you." The sneck was lifted, the door opened, and the minister of the parish presented himself before the somewhat abashed teacher, who was soon, however, equal to the occasion. "Ten thousand pardons, Mr Cook,—I thought you were a beggar; I've been pestered with them to-day."

He lived by himself in a room which he termed his "den." But for the apparition of a box-bed, the clothing of which seemed never to undergo the process of smoothing, it would have been more accurately described as the "orra" corner of an old book-shop. Only special friends were ever invited to disturb the perennial dust which overlay this sanctuary of confusion. "Friend, come into my den," was the invitation given to one; "I've something nice for you." The promised treat was an apple, abstracted from some musty recess; and the visitor proceeded to peel it with his penknife, when an indignant remonstrance, "Friend, my hands are clean!" testified to the displeasure which he had unconsciously given to his host. To save the trouble of cooking, and perhaps for other economical reasons, Mr Wood contrived to forage largely upon his acquaintances, especially at dinner-time. Necessity sharpens one's wits, and he was an adept at providing for himself. Sometimes the ordinary resources failed, and one of the first things heard in the school on such occasions was, "Charlie, you dog, go home and say to your mother I'll take a plate of kail with her. Tell her to have a potato in the jacket, and put no onions in the broth." He loathed the sight

of an onion as he hated the visit of a beggar. The familiarity of his address was not always agreeable; and he was seldom if ever more abashed than by the reply of a little fellow whom he had addressed in the ordinary style as "Jem, you dog." "I'm no' a dog, Mr Wood." "You little man, what are you then?" "I'm just a laddie." He joined in the burst of laughter which followed the artless remark, but he could not conceal his annoyance.

The Cairn Wood was not far from the school: it was famous for its wasps, and the pupils were fond of harrying their "bykes." Excursions were made at every dismissal, and they lasted so long that they came to be strictly forbidden. But the temptation was too great; and for a few days, by the employment of scouts to give notice of "seats"—the usual signal for opening school—the rule was broken with impunity. One day the scout had failed; the wasp-assailants were late; and when they presented themselves at the school-door, they were met with the stern announcement, "You won't get in here until you bring lines from your parents that you are to be allowed to do as you like." It was an alarming alternative; they dared not go home until the usual hour; and, however tempting the opportunity, it would have been dangerous to return to the wasps. To pass the time profitably, an interim teacher was appointed; his scholars ranged themselves against the wall; and without the aid of book, the varied tasks were gone through, with a little inaccuracy perhaps, but with sufficient vigour. Immediately door after door was opened, and a matron's head appeared at every one. "Have a care o' me, what's th[illegible]

remarked the astonished Mrs M'Kerron. "Na! but what will thae scoondrels be at next?" with characteristic emphasis, ejaculated Mrs Dunn. When the inside remnant were dismissed, the outside opposition went home to dinner—meditating, now that the excitement was over, on what should be done in the afternoon. The lines were out of the question; to continue the rebellion would make unpleasant revelations; and sudden demureness came over the little band, when a happy thought from Willie Hampton brought relief to their minds,—"Nae fears o' our bein' put out: though we dinna bring lines, a' our quarters are aye paid!" He was right. They returned in the afternoon, to hear nothing of the lines, or the breach of discipline which had been committed.

Poor old "friend"! The beginning of his career gave promise of a happier termination,—his efficiency as a teacher seemed the earnest of a more useful life. Under any circumstances, his eccentricities would doubtless have manifested themselves in some shape; but many of his peculiarities were the result of disappointed expectation, and failure to attain the comparatively independent position to which he had reasonably aspired. The last few years of his life were embittered by increasing poverty, by the loss of friends who had been kind to him, and by the growing infirmities of old age. He died in his "den" on the 15th of May 1866, and in the seventy-third year of his age.

PART FIFTH.

DISTINGUISHED MEN.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

JAMES BEATTIE.

THE illustrious author of 'The Minstrel' was a native of the parish. He was born on the 25th October 1735, on the farm of Borrowmuirhills, which was tenanted by a sister's descendants until comparatively recent years. His forefathers had been agriculturists in the immediate neighbourhood for several generations,—the Beatties having been long connected with Mill of Haulkerton, and the Watsons tenants at Scotston. Sir William Forbes, his most intimate friend for many years, and afterwards his biographer, describes the house in which he was born and its surroundings. The accuracy of the description will be recognised by all whose reminiscences carry them back to a period before recent changes had modified the landscape:—

"The house in which Dr Beattie was born stood on a rising ground at the north-east end of the

village, at no great distance from the site of the present inn, from which it was separated by a small rivulet. On the same spot is now built a house inhabited by a nephew of Dr Beattie's. And it has been remarked by some who are fond of fanciful analogies, that, as the tomb of Virgil, in the neighbourhood of Naples, was adorned with a laurel, the birthplace of Beattie was partly covered with ivy, as if to denote that it had produced a poet. The banks of the rivulet are beautifully fringed with wild roses, where Dr Beattie had been accustomed to spend his playful hours when at school, and which he delighted to contemplate, each time he passed through Laurencekirk, with that enthusiasm with which we revisit, in after-life, the haunts of our boyish days."

James Beattie, father of the poet, kept a small shop in the village in addition to the farm on which he resided. Though in humble circumstances, and remarkable for his intelligence, he was respected in the neighbourhood chiefly for his integrity of character.

> "This truth sublime his simple sire had taught;
> In sooth, 'twas almost all the shepherd knew.
> No subtle nor superfluous lore he sought,
> Nor ever wished his Edwin to pursue.
> 'Let man's own sphere,' said he, 'confine his view,
> Be man's peculiar work his sole delight.'
> And much, and oft, he warned him to eschew
> Falsehood and guile, and aye maintain the right,
> By pleasure unseduced, unawed by lawless might."

Jean Watson, wife of James Beattie, was the mother of six children, of whom her distinguished son was the youngest. He lost his father when he was seven years old; but the early promise, which came to be so abundantly realised, induced his friends

to put him in the way of gaining literary distinction. His mother, assisted by her eldest son David, continued to manage the farm and the shop, and maintained her youngest boy at school, where he made rapid progress. Even at that early age he came to be known among his companions as the "poet:"—

"And yet poor Edwin was no vulgar boy:
Deep thought oft seemed to fix his infant eye.
Dainties he heeded not, nor gaud, nor toy,
Save one short pipe of rudest minstrelsy.
Silent when glad; affectionate, though shy;
And now his look was most demurely sad;
And now he laughed aloud, yet none knew why.
The neighbours stared and sighed, yet blessed the lad:
Some deemed him wondrous wise, and some believed him mad.

But why should I his childish feats display?
Concourse, and noise, and toil he ever fled;
Nor cared to mingle in the clamorous fray
Of squabbling imps; but to the forest sped,
Or roamed at large the lonely mountain's head;
Or, where the maze of some bewildered stream
To deep untrodden groves his footsteps led,
There would he wander wild, till Phœbus' beam,
Shot from the western cliff, released the weary team."

He exhibited from the first many signs of devotedness to literature, of which the following two instances may be recorded in the words of his biographer: "It was remarked by his family at home, particularly by a sister (Mrs Valentine) some years older than himself, at whose house in Montrose, after her marriage, he occasionally visited, that during the night-time he used to get out of bed and walk about his chamber, in order to write down any poetical thought that had struck his fancy." The other circumstance is one which he frequently

told in after-life. "Having lain down early in the morning on the banks of his favourite rivulet, adjoining to his mother's house, he had fallen asleep: on awaking, it was not without astonishment that he found he had been walking in his sleep, and that he was then at a considerable distance (about a mile and a half) from the place where he had lain down. On his way back to that spot, he passed some labourers; and inquiring of them if they had seen him walking along, they told him that they had, with his head hanging down, as if he had been looking for something he had lost."

> "In truth he was a strange and wayward wight,
> Fond of each gentle and each dreadful scene.
> In darkness and in storm he found delight;
> Nor less, than when on ocean-wave serene
> The southern sun diffused his dazzling shene.
> Even sad vicissitude amused his soul;
> And if a sigh would sometimes intervene,
> And down his cheek a tear of pity roll,
> A sigh, a tear so sweet he wished not to control."

Many of the most beautiful periods in 'The Minstrel' were due to impressions on Beattie's mind while he was a boy at the parish school. In the words of his biographer: "A beautiful landscape which he has magnificently described in the twentieth stanza of the first book of 'The Minstrel,' corresponds exactly with what must have presented itself to his poetical imagination on those occasions" (of sauntering in the fields the livelong night) "at the approach of the rising sun, as he would view the grandeur of the scene from the hill in the neighbourhood of his native village." Again, "He

used himself to tell that it was from the top of a high hill in the neighbourhood that he first beheld the ocean, the sight of which, he declared, made the most lively impression on his mind."

"And oft he traced the uplands, to survey,
When o'er the sky advanced the kindling dawn,
The crimson cloud, blue main, and mountain grey,
And lake, dim-gleaming on the smoky lawn;
Far to the west the long, long vale withdrawn,
Where twilight loves to linger for a while;
And now he faintly kens the bounding fawn,
And villager abroad at early toil.
But lo! the sun appears! and heaven, earth, ocean smile."

The following allusion may seem less appropriate to the present time than it had doubtless been to the days of the poet, or to the closing years of his biographer, by whom it was made: "The seventeenth stanza of the second book of 'The Minstrel,' in which he so feelingly describes the spot of which he most approved for his place of sepulture, is so very exact a picture of the situation of the churchyard of Laurencekirk, which stands near to his mother's house, and in which is the schoolhouse where he was daily taught, that he must certainly have had it in his view at the time he wrote the following beautiful lines:—

'Let Vanity adorn the marble tomb
With trophies, rhymes, and scutcheons of renown,
In the deep dungeon of some Gothic dome,
Where night and desolation ever frown.
Mine be the breezy hill that skirts the down,
Where a green grassy turf is all I crave,
With here and there a violet bestrown,
Fast by a brook or fountain's murmuring wave;
And many an evening sun shine sweetly on my grave.'"

Beattie was duly entered at Marischal College,

where diligence in his studies soon made him proficient in all the branches of scholarship save mathematics, in which he never excelled. He graduated in 1753, and was soon after appointed schoolmaster of Fordoun and precentor in the parish church. The five years which he spent in that parish were broken only by the winter sessions of the Divinity Hall, which he attended with a view to the ministry. He had few associates but the minister of the parish, Mr Forbes, who showed him no small kindness, and of whose family he was a frequent visitor. His studious mind rendered him comparatively independent of society, though he expressed a sense of relief when his brother David also settled in Fordoun. They were deeply attached to one another, and the kindness bestowed on the younger in those early days was afterwards repaid in full to the elder and his family.

Beattie's first literary patron was Lord Gardenstone, then Mr Francis Garden, sheriff of the county, who resided occasionally at Woodstock, a house in the neighbourhood of Fordoun. Their meeting was accidental. The young schoolmaster was discovered by the future judge in a favourite glen, writing with his pencil on a slip of paper. He was in the throes of composition,—likely enough, on one of those pieces which he contributed to some of the periodicals of the time, and which were already attracting the attention of readers. The sheriff's curiosity was raised, to be subsequently gratified with a perusal of some of the young man's poetical effusions. They were of such a superior cast, that, with characteristic caution, to test the author's abilities, but in the politest terms,

he proposed that he should translate the invocation to Venus from the first book of Lucretius. His biographer records that, "in compliance with this request, Beattie retired into the adjoining wood, and in no long time produced the translation, bearing all the marks of original composition, for it was much blotted with alterations and corrections." It was probably this connection with the future proprietor of Johnston that led to David Beattie's first engagement and subsequent tenure of the factorship.

A vacancy having occurred in 1757 on the staff of teachers in the grammar-school of Aberdeen, Beattie was advised by the parish minister to offer himself as a candidate. He submitted to a competition for the office, but was unsuccessful. Next year a similar vacancy occurred, and he was requested without competition to accept the office. Soon after settling in Aberdeen he made his first appearance to the world as an author, the publication being a volume of poems, some of which had already appeared in magazines. His literary excellence was speedily acknowledged. Very soon after, in 1760, when only twenty-five years of age, he was promoted to the chair of Moral Philosophy and Logic in Marischal College and University.

His after-life can only be briefly traced in these pages. He was a profuse writer in prose and verse, though as a poet his reputation has been highest —'The Minstrel' being by universal consent his masterpiece. Copious extracts have already been given from this sublime production. The reader will tranquilly submit to another which, for its beauti-

ful simplicity, has been characterised by an admirer of the poet as "the perfection of poetry." It describes the revels of the Fays, when

"—— sleep
A vision brought to his entrancèd sight.
And first a wildly murmuring wind 'gan creep
Shrill to his ringing ear; then tapers bright,
With instantaneous gleam, illumed the vault of night.

Anon in view a portal's blazoned arch
Arose; the trumpet bids the valves unfold;
And forth an host of little warriors march,
Grasping the diamond lance and targe of gold.
Their look was gentle, their demeanour bold,
And green their helms, and green their silk attire;
And here and there, right venerably old,
The long-robed minstrels wake the warbling wire,
And some with mellow breath the martial pipe inspire.

With merriment, and song, and timbrels clear,
A troop of dames from myrtle bowers advance;
The little warriors doff the targe and spear,
And loud enlivening strains provoke the dance.
They meet, they dart away, they wheel askance;
To right, to left, they thrid the flying maze;
Now bound aloft with vigorous spring, then glance
Rapid along: with many-coloured rays
Of tapers, gems, and gold, the echoing forests blaze."

What striking contrast there is in the severity of the stanza which follows, without abatement in the measure of true poetry:—

"The dream is fled. Proud harbinger of day,
Who scaredst the vision with thy clarion shrill,
Fell chanticleer! who oft hast reft away
My fancied good, and brought substantial ill!
Oh, to thy cursed scream, discordant still,
Let harmony aye shut her gentle ear;
Thy boastful mirth let jealous rivals spill,
Insult thy crest, and glossy pinions tear,
And ever in thy dreams the ruthless fox appear."

Dr Beattie's rank in the literary world has been thus happily indicated by Professor Wilson in 'Noctes Ambrosianæ:' "Beattie was a delightful poet,—that Mr Wordsworth well knows,—and, Mr Alison excepted, the best writer on literature and the fine arts Britain ever produced, full of feeling and full of genius."

His 'Essay on Truth' appeared first in 1770, and passed through five editions in the course of four years. Written as a defence of the Christian religion against the attacks of Hume and others, it brought upon the author a series of invective assaults from sceptics of every degree.

The 'Evidences of the Christian Religion' was another valuable contribution to the Christian faith. Originally intended for the use of some young friends, it was published in 1786, on the recommendation of Dr Porteous, Bishop of Chester, to whom it was also dedicated.

The University of Oxford, in recognition of his qualities as a writer, conferred on Professor Beattie the degree of LL.D. Soon afterwards being in London, he was honoured by a private conference with George III., who was greatly pleased with the interview, and testified his respect for Dr Beattie in the substantial form of a pension. He was urged by the highest dignitaries of the Church of England to take orders in that Church, but he declined. It may be added, however, that much later he intended his younger son for the English Church, until the death of the young man interposed. Strong overtures in influential quarters were also made for his removal to the University of Edinburgh, but he resisted all the entreaties of his friends.

While in London, he met Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the two distinguished men became fast friends. The great painter presented him with an allegorical painting of himself, which has been thus described: "In this inestimable piece, which exhibits an exact resemblance of Dr Beattie's countenance at that period, he is represented in the gown of Doctor of Laws with which he had been so recently invested at Oxford. Close to the portrait, the artist has introduced an angel, holding in one hand a pair of scales, as if weighing 'Truth' in the balance, and with the other hand pushing down three hideous figures, supposed to represent Sophistry, Scepticism, and Infidelity, in allusion to Dr Beattie's 'Essay,' which had been the foundation of all his fame, and all the distinction that had been paid to him." The following characteristic letter from Sir Joshua may be of sufficient interest to be inserted:—

"London, 22*d February* 1774.

"I sit down to relieve my mind of great anxiety and uneasiness, and I am very serious when I say that this proceeds from not answering your letter sooner. This seems very strange, you will say, since the cause may be so easily removed; but the truth of the matter is, I waited to be able to inform you that your picture was finished, which, however, I cannot now do. I must confess to you that when I sat down, I did intend to tell a sort of white lie, that it was finished; but on recollecting that I was writing to the author of 'Truth,' about a picture of truth, I felt that I ought to say nothing but truth. The truth then is, that the picture probably will be finished

before you receive this letter, for there is not above a day's work remaining to be done. Mr Hume has heard from somebody that he is introduced in the picture, not much to his credit: there is only a figure covering his face with his hands, which they may call Hume, or anybody else;—it is true it has a tolerable broad back. As for Voltaire, I intended he should be one of the group.

"I intended to write more, but I hear the postman's bell. Dr Johnson, who is with me now, desires his compliments."

When Dr Beattie had first settled in Aberdeen, on his appointment in the grammar-school, he was much in the society of Dr James Dunn, Rector, who was probably a kinsman of his own. The Rector's only daughter, Mary Dunn, became his wife in 1767, and the first few years of their union were happy ones. Her natural accomplishments were genial to the mind of the poet. But, unhappily, from her mother she had inherited insanity, which in process of time developed itself, clouding his later years with sadness. Two sons were born to them.

James Hay Beattie, the elder son, was a young man of great promise. Beginning to feel the premonitions of age, and anxious for the future of his son, Dr Beattie recommended him as his own assistant and successor in the chair. He was appointed accordingly, and the young professor entered upon his duties in 1787. Speedily all his hopes from this source were dissipated. A constitution never robust began to manifest symptoms of early decay, and he died in November 1790 in the twenty-third year of his age.

The sorrowing father bore the loss with pious resignation; and the last of his many works was, 'An Account of the Life, Character, and Writings of his eldest son, James Hay Beattie.' His health, however, was considerably affected by the shock.

Montagu Beattie, the younger son, died of fever in March 1796, and the double bereavement completely unhinged the mind of the desolate father. The first symptom of the great collapse "was a temporary but almost total loss of memory respecting his son. Many times he could not recollect what had become of him; and after searching in every room of the house, he would say to his niece, Mrs Glennie, 'You may think it strange, but I must ask you if I have a son, and where he is?' She then felt herself under the painful necessity of bringing to his recollection his son Montagu's sufferings, which always restored him to reason. And he would often, with many tears, express his thankfulness that he had no child, saying, 'How could I have borne to see their elegant minds mangled with madness!' When he looked for the last time on the dead body of his son, he said, 'I have now done with the world,' and he ever after seemed to act as if he thought so."

The few remaining years of Dr Beattie's life were passed in much sadness. He had a stroke of palsy in 1799, which was frequently renewed, though he lingered until the 18th of August 1803, when he died in the sixty-eighth year of his age, leaving behind him the reputation of a great and good man.

He was buried, according to his own desire, beside the remains of his two sons in the churchyard of St

Nicholas, Aberdeen. Before his death his niece, referring to the stanza in 'The Minstrel,' had put the question if he wished his remains to be laid in the churchyard of Laurencekirk. But a father's love had surmounted the early feeling of the poet.

He died, as he had lived, in that full confidence of a blessed resurrection, to which expression had been given in the closing stanzas of 'The Hermit,'—a poem which has been aptly described as "beginning in gloom, but ending in glory:"—

"'Tis night, and the landscape is lovely no more:
I mourn, but, ye woodlands, I mourn not for you;
For morn is approaching, your charms to restore,
Perfumed with fresh fragrance, and glittering with dew.
Nor yet for the ravage of winter I mourn,—
Kind Nature the embryo blossom will save:
But when shall spring visit the mouldering urn?
Oh, when shall it dawn on the night of the grave?

'Twas thus, by the glare of false Science betrayed,
That leads to bewilder, and dazzles to blind,
My thoughts wont to roam, from shade onward to shade,
Destruction before me, and sorrow behind.
'Oh pity, great Father of light,' then I cried,
'Thy creature, who fain would not wander from Thee:
Lo! humbled in dust, I relinquish my pride;
From doubt and from darkness Thou only canst free.'

And darkness and doubt are now flying away;
No longer I roam in conjecture forlorn.
So breaks on the traveller, faint and astray,
The bright and the balmy effulgence of morn.
See Truth, Love, and Mercy, in triumph descending,
And Nature all glowing in Eden's first bloom!
On the cold cheek of Death smiles and roses are blending,
And Beauty immortal awakes from the tomb."

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

THOMAS RUDDIMAN.

The celebrated grammarian and philologist was born in 1674, in the parish of Boyndie, Banffshire, being the son of James Ruddiman and Margaret Simpson. They had a family of six children, of whom Thomas was the second. James Ruddiman occupied the farm of Raggel, and was known in the district as a skilful agriculturist. He was ardently attached to the monarchy. He burst into tears when he heard of the death of Charles II.; and the affecting incident was long remembered by his son, then ten years old, on whose mind it left an impression strong enough to influence his conduct.

From boyhood Ruddiman evinced a remarkable fondness for dogs. Every morning, on his way to school, he was accompanied by a favourite to a certain spot about half-way, where he received a share of his master's dinner, and returned to the farm. This partiality was shown throughout his whole life, and it is said he "had a succession of dogs, which were invariably called *Rascal;* and which, being springing spaniels, ever accompanied him in all his walks. He used with affectionate recollection to entertain his friends with stories of dogs, which all tended to show the fidelity of that useful animal to man." But, from the beginning, a strong passion for learning was his chief characteristic. He made rapid progress at school, and soon outstripped his

class-fellows. George Morison, master of the school, was delighted with his pupil, and encouraged all his efforts.

At the age of sixteen, Ruddiman was induced to offer himself at the annual competition for bursaries at King's College. His father, fearing to expose him to the difficulties he was sure to meet, withheld his consent. But, without his father's knowledge, and with only a guinea in his pocket, the gift of his eldest sister, Agnes, he started for Aberdeen. On the journey he was waylaid by a band of gipsies, who stripped him of his clothing, and in all likelihood appropriated his money too. He arrived in Aberdeen without friends, and with the barest approach to decent apparel; but he carried off the highest honours of the day. His father, on learning whither he had gone, followed, to find the runaway not only installed as first bursar, but with friends already around him encouraging him in his new position. He passed the usual curriculum,—one of his fellow-students being Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, who was afterwards beheaded. Even at that early period the future rebel was at the head of every mischief resorted to as a variety to academic experience. Ruddiman sustained his reputation throughout; and, on 21st June 1694, he obtained the degree of Master of Arts, of which he is said to have been always proud.

His studies were not discontinued when he bade adieu to college-life. His first production, which was never published, was 'Rhetoricorum libri tres,' and it was completed before his twentieth year. Soon after leaving college he was appointed tutor

to David Young, son of the laird of Auldbar. His early impressions in favour of the royal house of Stewart must have been confirmed by residence at Auldbar, the family being among the strongest of its supporters in Angus, and the laird of the time, Ruddiman's pupil, being afterwards one of the most zealous friends of the Pretender. But his devotion to literature, and still more, perhaps, his peace-loving disposition, saved him from active participation in the cause in which his sympathies were enlisted.

Ruddiman, in all likelihood through the influence of Peter Barclay of Johnston, was appointed in April 1695 to succeed Mr Bellie as parish schoolmaster of Laurencekirk. The office was no lucrative one, the salary fixed by statute being from one to two hundred merks, ranging from £5, 11s. 1⅓d. to £11, 2s. 2⅔d. sterling, and paid chiefly in grain. He sold his corn to his uncle, William Simpson, who gave him a high price for it, during what were called the "dear" years following upon the Revolution. In this humble situation he prosecuted his own studies, and faithfully taught the children of the parish. The school of the period was on the site of the stable attached to the brewery; and the brewer's horses are probably now sheltered by the very walls within which the illustrious Ruddiman exercised his gifts, teaching the elements of grammar to others, and pondering the intricacies of philology himself. His class-book was Simpson's 'Rudimenta Grammatices.' The 'Plane Donat' had long before given place to the grammar of Despauter, which had made way in turn for a host of treatises, of which Simpson's was the favourite. The youthful teacher spent

three years and a half training the young minds of Laurencekirk, and adding incessantly to his own mental stores, when there opened to him a new prospect, which may be narrated in the words of his biographer:—

"The celebrated Dr Pitcairne, being detained by violence of weather at this inconsiderable hamlet, which had not yet a library at the inn, felt the misery of having nothing to do. Wanting society, he inquired if there were no person in the village who could interchange conversation, and would partake of his dinner. The hostess informed him that the schoolmaster, though young, was said to be learned, and, though modest, she was sure could talk. Thus met Pitcairne at the age of forty-seven, with Ruddiman at twenty-five. Their literature, their politics, and their general cast of mind were mutually pleasing to each other. Pitcairne invited Ruddiman to Edinburgh, offered him his patronage, and performed, in the end, what is not always experienced, as much as he originally promised."

Dr Archibald Pitcairne was celebrated as a physician and poet, and for the less honourable distinction of scepticism in his religious views. Among the honours which his reputation as a scholar procured for him was a degree, conferred in August 1699, by the University and King's College, Aberdeen. It was probably on the return journey from having this distinction conferred, that stress of weather brought him to the inn at Laurencekirk. He was a strong Jacobite; and one of his daughters became the wife of the fifth Earl of Kellie, who was attainted for his share in the Rebellion of 1745.

Acting on the advice of Pitcairne, Ruddiman removed to Edinburgh in the beginning of the year 1700. His patron at once procured him employment in the Advocates' Library: at the end of two years he was installed as assistant-librarian, and in 1730 was appointed chief librarian. His connection with this important office has received this honourable mention: "The learning and judgment, the activity and attention, which Ruddiman invariably exerted for the benefit of this institution during fifty years, have justly gained him the honour of being the second founder of the Advocates' Library."

He married, in 1701, Barbara Scollay, daughter of the laird of Oatness in Orkney, who brought him a good connection, but little fortune. He joined an Episcopal congregation, whose meeting-house was in Gray's Close. In December 1703, he agreed to pay forty shillings Scots for his seat during the two years. The situation of librarian offered many facilities, of which he availed himself; and his life was one of great industry in the literary world. For a few years he received sons of respectable families into his house, for their education. But with all his efforts, his first years in the metropolis were not remunerative; and, to increase his income, he assumed, in 1707, the business of auctioneer, dealing chiefly in books. His industry in the more genial work, however, continued unabated; and successive years added to his contributions to literature.

The magistrates of Dundee, in 1710, invited Ruddiman to become rector of the grammar-school there. The Faculty of Advocates were pressing in their desire that he should not accept the office, and at

once raised his salary to three times its former amount, fixing it at what in these days would be the inconsiderable sum of £30, 6s. 8d. Ruddiman declined the appointment. The same year his wife died; and the following year he married, as his second wife, Janet Horsburgh, daughter of a sheriff-clerk in Fifeshire.

In 1714 he produced the work with which his fame is chiefly identified, and which has made his name familiar to every youthful aspirant to a knowledge of Latin. Though he had been long removed from the parish, the famous work bears on its title-page, "Rudiments of the Latin Language. By Thomas Ruddiman, Keeper of the Advocates' Library, and some time Schoolmaster at Laurence-Kirk, in the Mearns. 1st ed. Edinburgh: 1714." This little work very speedily supplanted all previous grammars of the kind. For more than a century it was almost the only entrance into Latin known in Scottish schools. If it has now, in a measure, given place to others, they may be said to be chiefly expanded forms, and not always improved expansions, of itself. Fifteen editions of the 'Rudiments' were published in the author's lifetime; and, at his death, "he left this saleable treatise as a productive income to his widow."

The year after the publication of the 'Rudiments,' Ruddiman became a printer in partnership with his brother Walter, who had been bred to the business. Many learned works issued from his press, not a few of which were edited by himself. He began to print the 'Caledonian Mercury' in 1724; and five years after, he obtained the entire interest in that news-

paper, which continued the property of his family until 1772, when it was disposed of by the trustees of his grandchildren. In 1728 he was nominated one of the printers to the University.

Ruddiman's second wife having died two years previously, he married again in 1729—his third wife being Ann Smith, daughter of a merchant and brewer in Edinburgh. Ten years afterwards, he transferred his interest in the printing business to his son Thomas, allowing his name to continue in the firm. It is not for these pages to record the learned treatises of which he was the author or editor, numbering about thirty volumes—or to discuss the controversies, many of them bitter ones, which followed their publication. It is enough, to show his indefatigable perseverance as an author, to state that at the age of eighty years he published 'Anticrisis; or, A Discussion of a Scurrilous and Malicious Libel, published by one James Man of Aberdeen.' Two years later appeared his last work, entitled 'Audi alteram Partem, &c.'

On the 19th day of January 1757, at Edinburgh, Thomas Ruddiman closed a long and laborious life, at the age of eighty-three years.

The following passage from his biography, published in 1794, reflects, not creditably, on the founder of the burgh; but in the interests of justice it ought not to be omitted:—

"During several years Scotland has, indeed, been led to expect that a cenotaph would be erected at Laurence-Kirk by Lord Gardenstone, not so much to perpetuate Ruddiman's name, as to do honour to his learning, and to exalt his worth. In May 1790,

Lord Gardenstone declared 'that he still intended to erect a proper monument, in his village, to the memory of the late learned and worthy Mr Thomas Ruddiman'! Yet was there published at Edinburgh, in 1792, a volume of 'Miscellanies,' under Lord Gardenstone's name, containing an avowed attack on the memory, and mean detractions from the fame, of Ruddiman. Cenotaph our 'great grammarian' will have none. But his philological labours will communicate 'eternal blazon' to his name, after the fall of structures of marble or pillars of brass, had they been erected by other hands than his own:—

> 'Post obitum benefacta manent, æternaque virtus
> Non metuit Stygiis ne rapiatur aquis.'"

It adds to the mysteriousness of this charge to find Boswell, in the account of his tour to the Hebrides, writing these words: "We stopped at Lawrence-Kirk, where our great grammarian Ruddiman was once schoolmaster. We respectfully remembered that excellent man and eminent scholar, by whose labours a knowledge of the Latin language will be preserved in Scotland, if it shall be preserved at all. Lord Gardenstone, one of our judges, collected money to raise a monument to him at this place, which I hope will be well executed. I know my father gave five guineas towards it."

ALEXANDER ROSS.

Another teacher in the parish distinguished himself in a humbler sphere of life and literature. Alexander Ross was born at Kincardine O'Neil in 1699. He

studied at Aberdeen, and was a graduate of the university there. In 1726 he married Jane Catanach, the daughter of an Aberdeenshire family. It must have been a year or two after his marriage that he came to the parish, and acted for some time probably as assistant to James Milne. Beyond this fact nothing is known of his connection with the parish.

From Laurencekirk, in 1732, he was promoted to be schoolmaster of Lochlee. In that remote parish he passed his life, having his duties lightened by the society of the Muses. A few productions of his genial pen are still to be seen inscribed on tombstones in the sequestered spot where his own ashes repose. One records the death of a young man who was accidentally burned, and has a quaint allusion to the cause of his death :—

> "From what befalls us here below,
> Let none from thence conclude
> Our lot shall after time be so—
> The young man's life was good."

Ross had wellnigh passed the threescore years and ten before his writings were first given to publication. His reputation as a poet rests chiefly on the authorship of "Lindy and Nory; or, The Fortunate Shepherdess." Others of his poems were—"The Rock an' the wee pickle Tow," "To the Beggin' we will go," and "Woo'd an' Married an' a'." Burns wrote of him in these characteristic terms—"Our true brother, Ross of Lochlee, was a wild warlock."

In his later years he found a steadfast and generous friend in Dr Beattie. This friendship may have been cemented by reminiscences of Laurencekirk, and mutual acquaintance there, though the Professor was

not born until three years after his removal from the parish. Beattie's only attempt to write in the vernacular was on the first publication of his friend's poems, when an epistle appeared in the 'Aberdeen Journal' from his pen, of which the following is the first stanza:—

"O Ross, thou wale of hearty cocks,
Sae crouse and canty with thy jokes!
Thy hamely auld-warld muse provokes
Me for awhile
To ape our guid plain countra folks
In verse and stile."

Through Dr Beattie he received an invitation to visit at Gordon Castle when eighty years of age. The Duke and Duchess were both exceedingly kind and attentive during the few days of his stay; and the Duchess presented him, on leaving, with an elegant pocket-book containing a handsome sum of money.

The following year his wife died, and he did not long survive her who had been the partner of his joys and sorrows for fifty-four years. He died at Lochlee in 1784, having entered his eighty-sixth year. His character as a poet has been thus pleasingly delineated:—

"How finely nature aye he paintit!
O' sense in rhyme he ne'er was stentit,
An' to the heart he always sent it
Wi' might and main.
An' no a'e line he e'er inventit
Need ane offen'!"

CHAPTER XXXIX.

JOHN COOK.

Another distinguished life is deserving of notice, though it was spent in work of a practical kind, which, however invaluable in its influence and lasting in its benefits, leaves behind it no tangible memorial to perpetuate the name and character of the man.

John Cook was born in the Manse in 1807, and was educated at the parish school until his twelfth year. He then matriculated as a student in St Andrews University, in whose history members of his family had held a prominent place for generations. At the age of twenty-two he became a licentiate of the Church, and was soon presented to the parish of Cults in Fifeshire. He was transferred in a few years to the second charge of Haddington, and promoted in 1843 to the first charge of that church and parish. As a parish minister he was held in esteem by his people, who were no less proud of the distinction which he obtained in the Church at large, than willing to appreciate his unwearied labours on their behalf. Inheriting a name which had long been famous in Scottish ecclesiastical history, he added fresh lustre to it in the services which he rendered to the Church and nation.

His work entitled 'Styles, Procedure, and Practice in the Church Courts of Scotland,' as a book of reference has been of great utility. Unequalled among

his brethren as a Church lawyer, and having a perfect acquaintance with ecclesiastical forms, his services were invaluable during a lengthened tenure of the clerkship of the Assembly. He was appointed sub-clerk in 1859, and three years afterwards succeeded to the office of principal clerk. He was gifted in large measure with the faculty of isolating himself when at his clerical duties, alike from personal feeling on the question at issue, and from the distracting influences which prevail more or less in every deliberative assembly. In consequence, those most opposed to him were as ready to submit to his decision in points of form, and his fairness in recording, as his own friends were in matters which were to receive his powerful advocacy as a member of the House.

For many years John Cook was a respected and active leader in the Church. Besides taking a prominent share in several of the minor schemes, he was long at the head of the Education Committee. To no Church scheme has greater ability been more zealously and unweariedly devoted. The question of national education lay very near his heart. He grudged no labour towards its advancement. Few men were more capable of judging as to the efficiency of the old parish-school system, and his intense admiration of it was apparent in zealous effort to uphold the venerable institution. He opposed most strenuously the Education Bill, which ripened into an Act in 1872; but when the new system was introduced, such was the respect in which he was held, and the confidence reposed in him by those best fitted to judge, that, without a dissenting voice, he was at

once called to be chairman both of the parish and of the burgh school board.

He was a consistent and unflinching opponent of the measures which, in 1874, resulted in the abolition of patronage. His last two speeches on the floor of the Assembly Hall—not the least brilliant and powerful that he had delivered—were an able defence of the position which he had always maintained on this question.

John Cook, who had some years previously received the degree of D.D., was appointed Moderator of the General Assembly in 1866. His appointment was a fitting recognition of many eminent services, and his memory will be cherished by many of the present generation as one of the most deserving on whom that honour has been conferred.

Until within a fortnight of his death, Dr Cook's health and vigorous discharge of duty promised a long lease of life. He died at the Manse of Haddington on the 11th September 1874.

GEORGE MENZIES.

George Menzies, a poet of no mean order, was born of humble and respectable parents, at Townhead of Arbuthnott, on the 21st of January 1797. A year or two after, the family removed to Redmyre, on which the father was engaged as a farm-servant. After eighteen months' attendance at a side-school, George, who was the eldest child, was entered at the parish school of Fordoun, which was then under the

care of an accomplished teacher, Mr Milne, who won the confidence and lifelong gratitude of his pupil. By the time he had entered his eleventh year, Menzies had taken to the writing of verses; and he continued a diligent scholar at the school of Fordoun until November 1811. He was then duly qualified for entering upon a college career; but unhappily, the poverty of his parents and the lack of timely aid debarred him from a privilege which, if it had been open to him, might have raised him to a high position in the ranks of literature. He was apprenticed to a gardener, and for a few years of his life prosecuted the calling of one as apprentice and journeyman in various parts of the country, at the same time storing his mind with information, and giving expression to his thoughts in fugitive verses. When about twenty years of age, he abandoned gardening, and for a short time had charge of the school at Cockity. The next few years of his life were divided between short engagements in various side-schools in the neighbourhood and the occupation of weaving, to which he was obliged to have resort for a livelihood. The first edition of his poems was published at Forfar in 1822, under the title of 'Poetical Trifles.' The year after, he took up his residence in Laurencekirk, and devoted the hours spared from the irksome labours of the loom to literary work, the fruits of which appeared from time to time in various newspapers. It was on this occasion that he produced his 'Village Poet,' which was very much of an autobiography, and in which he bewailed the comparative neglect into which the author of 'The Minstrel' had fallen in his native place:—

"'Tis his to cull a few ungathered flowers,
That bloom unseen on Conveth's dewy dale;
'Tis his, unknown, to wander in the bowers
Of green Kincardine's hill-embosomed vale,
Where once a minstrel spent his infant hours—
Where Edwin learned to con his simple tale.
Why should we hold the voice of fame so dear?
Even Beattie's name is half forgotten here."

His associations at this period incurred habits for which his health, never robust, but ill adapted him; and it was partly to obviate them that he removed to a small school in the northern division of the parish in 1826. The year after, he was appointed to the charge of a school at Thornton, the remuneration from which was so small that he had to eke his income, for the two years which he remained, by spending his harvest vacation at the loom. Leaving Thornton, he was established teacher, first at a school in Garvock, and then at a more remunerative one in the village of Auchinblae. He was in this situation when the agitation previous to the Reform Act was exercising the minds of most communities; and Mr Menzies, soured by many disappointments, became a keen politician. He acquitted himself with the usual energy of such a character, on the platform and in the press; but, whatever other reforms he may have advanced, he failed to make a salutary impression on his own condition of life. Many years afterwards, when experience had made him a wiser man, he referred to this epoch in his history, when writing to a friend, in these significant terms: "The reform that I used, when in Scotland, to advocate, when carried too far, is a *humbug*,—beware of it."

Failing to see any prospect of advancement in

the scholastic profession, notwithstanding his acknowledged efficiency as a teacher, Mr Menzies left Scotland in 1833, and sailed as an emigrant to British America. After filling various situations as a teacher, he finally settled as editor, first of the 'Niagara Reporter,' then of the 'Niagara Mail,' and at last of the 'Woodstock Herald.' His position on the staff of these respective journals he filled with marked ability, and the more prosperous career on which he had entered was cut short by his premature death at Woodstock, on the 28th of February 1847, in the fifty-first year of his age.

As a journalist, Mr Menzies's advocacy of the British constitution was no less keen, and greatly more effective, than his old attempts at reform in Laurencekirk and Auchinblae. During the disturbances of 1837 and 1838, he not only employed his pen with vigour, but for a short while buckled on the sword, in defence of the Colonial Government. In the far-off land of his adoption, judging from his published work, his mind must often have dwelt with admiration, and his heart with pure affection, on the old country and its time-honoured institutions. When experience and reflection had mellowed his judgment, it is interesting to find the *quondam* enthusiast for political reform discarding the satire, of which he was a master, and, "albeit the broad Atlantic intervened," breathing these tender notes on Church and school:—

THE PARISH CHURCH.

"Mine own beloved Zion, built upon
The Eternal Rock of Ages! wheresoe'er
I roam, the blessed Sabbath memory

Of the old Parish Church I cherish still—
The holiest link that binds me to my home.
Peace be within thy walls, prosperity within
Thy palaces. Oh! if a day should come,
In which my country owns no Parish Church,
How dim will be her gold! her most fine gold,
Alas, how changed! Then ICHABOD will be
The epitaph inscribed upon her tomb,
And she will be a hissing and reproach,
Like other lands that have preceded her,
In this the Modern Reformation!"

* * * * * *

THE PARISH SCHOOL.

* * * * * *

"Close by our Parish Church there stands,
Albeit a fane of lowlier kind
Than those which rise in sunnier lands,
The nursery of a nation's mind.

That mind hath travelled far and wide
O'er every land and every sea;
But still its proudest cause of pride,
Our Parish School, is all of thee.

Oh, glory to the Parish School,
And honour to it everywhere,
For it hath been the vestibule
To many, many a home of prayer!"

The following two stanzas, the first and last respectively of a poem addressed to Laurencekirk, will be a fitting close to this brief memoir of George Menzies. May it be a humble means of helping to realise the poet's fond anticipation!—

"My Village Home!—the home of all
The best and brightest of my days,
Ere I beheld the shadows fall,
That since have darkened all my ways—

My Village Home, across the deep
And dark Atlantic's stormy wave,
Would that I were with thee to weep
Again upon my mother's grave.

. . . . . .

And when the tale, on tardy wing,
Shall reach my village home at last,
That I am a departed thing—
A shadowy memory of the past—
Twill touch a yet surviving chord,
And mine a living name may be—
A fondly cherished village word—
An era in its history."

EDWARD MASSON.

Edward Masson was a native of Laurencekirk, where he was born in 1800. He showed great aptitude for learning from his earlier years, and soon after entering the University of Aberdeen he distinguished himself as a classical scholar. On leaving the university he was appointed parish schoolmaster of Farnell, and held the office for a few years. While there, he is said to have been as familiar with the most difficult writings of the Greek authors as with the corresponding works of English writers. He resigned the office of schoolmaster, and, influenced by his partiality for the Greeks and their ancient language, he went to Greece. He became Secretary to the Greek fleet under Lord Dundonald, then High Admiral of Greece, and performed the duties of that office in the Greek war. He afterwards published 'Philhellenia,' translations from the Greek, and in his introduction refers to this part of his life, when he was about twenty-four years of

age: "I was then young, and the spirit of the Covenant and the Grampians came over me. Besides, a solemn sense of duty made me accept the special invitation of the Greek Government and of the great Scottish naval hero, to become Secretary to the Greek fleet, and take a personal share in the struggle of civilisation against barbarism — of the Cross against the Crescent."

Mr Masson subsequently held several most distinguished appointments under Government in his adopted country. In the discharge of his public duties he had frequent occasion to address public audiences, which he did with all the readiness and accuracy of a native orator.

He returned to Scotland, and became a licentiate of the Free Church soon after the Disruption, and preached occasionally. For several years he engaged in literary work of various kinds, and was at length appointed Professor of Greek in the Assembly College, Belfast. He filled the professor's chair only for a few years, when he resigned, and latterly returned to Athens, where he died in 1873.

WILLIAM DUIRS.

William Duirs, a grand-nephew of Dr Beattie, was born at Borrowmuirhills in 1820, and received his early education at the parish school. In due time he entered the University in Aberdeen, and, on completing the usual curriculum, took the degree of Master of Arts. Having selected the medical profession as his pursuit in life, he entered the

Medical Hall, and duly graduated as Doctor in Medicine. Soon after, he received an appointment as assistant-surgeon in the Royal Navy, and rose through the various grades to the rank of Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets. Dr Duirs for many years held an eminent place in the service, alike for efficiency as a medical officer, and for the esteem which he won for himself as a man. Amiable, yet firm of purpose, he was equally beloved and respected by his brother-officers. According to the testimony of a medical journal, "more than once were his amiable and personal qualities made use of by his superiors, much to his discomfort, for the purpose of re-establishing a proper feeling in officers' messes which had become disorganised,—yet he spoke but little; and when officers of the messes referred to were asked what he had said or done to effect his purpose, the invariable answer was, 'Well, he never seemed either to say or do anything; but we somehow felt ourselves pulling more together and getting happier.'" While in charge of the Royal Naval Hospital, Port-Royal, Jamaica, he contracted yellow fever, and died in 1867. Sixty-two of his brother medical officers combined to erect a tablet in his memory within the parish church, "as a testimony of their high appreciation of his sterling worth, kindness of heart, and professional abilities." He married Jemima Fettes, daughter of Dr Fettes, who survived her husband only a short time.

JAMES HENDERSON.

Among the sons of Laurencekirk who happily survive to reflect credit on their native burgh, James Henderson has gained a prominent place by a life of steady perseverance and successful enterprise. He was born at Laurencekirk in the third decade of the present century, his parents being George Henderson and Margaret Masson, a sister of Edward Masson. Mr Henderson received his education at the parish school, and gave early indication of a taste for literary work. His first appointment on leaving his native parish was in the establishment of Messrs Murray, publishers, Glasgow; and he left the service of that firm to commence the business of a publisher on his own account. He was the first publisher of a penny daily newspaper. When the Bill for repealing the newspaper duty was introduced, anticipating the change, he commenced a daily issue of specimen papers under different names, and was thus in readiness to avail himself of the first opportunity of issuing his journal. He remained in Glasgow for a short time, and afterwards removed to London, where he soon became proprietor and publisher of the 'South London Press.' Various other periodicals are issued from his press, one of the most recently established and widely circulated of which is 'Funny Folks,' an illustrated comic paper.

Mr Henderson was in early life a devoted horticulturist. He and his brother were among the earliest and most zealous promoters of the Horticultural Society; and his predilection and taste for

gardening are still exhibited in the complete and beautiful arrangement of the extensive grounds attached to his elegant villa, Adon Mount, Dulwich.

CHARLES GIBBON.

Only an indirect claim to connection with this popular author can be made on behalf of the parish, his wife being a native of Blackiemuir, and daughter of Archibald Henderson, who has been the well-known occupant of that farm for upwards of thirty years. Mr Gibbon's merits as a writer have won for him a universally acknowledged place among the leading novelists of the day; and the favour with which his work on George Combe has been received, is evidence of pre-eminent talent in other walks of literature. In one of his best known works, 'For Lack of Gold,' Mr Gibbon has drawn from the past and present of Laurencekirk many of the scenes, and characters, and incidents which are not the least interesting to the general reader, and which add to the local popularity of that volume.

PART SIXTH.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHAPTER XL.

AGRICULTURE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

A SHORT chapter on the state of agriculture in the parish, and the social condition of the people in last century, should find a place in this rambling history. The retrospect is one which ought to give rise to feelings of thankfulness for the better times, and the improved condition on which the lot of the present generation has been cast. The first half of the century was one of general depression in agriculture through the whole of Scotland; and there were local causes in the parish of hindrance to the prosperity, which gradually followed its restoration to settled peace and unmolested industry. Ruddiman, it has been said, received an exceptionally high price for his corn while he was in the parish. The average price per boll, for ten years preceding 1699, of wheat was 16s. 11½d., and oats 10s. 1½d., sterling. But these

prices were the result of a succession of defective crops ending in famine, the bitter effects of which were felt at the beginning of the century.

Several of the storms of the century were intense in their severity and disastrous in their effects, and have acquired a historical reputation. An account of one or two, derived from personal experience of their consequences in the parish, is given in one of Mr James Cowie's interesting pamphlets. "In 1740," he writes, "a great frost occurred, which continued for about five months, destroying vegetation extensively, including natural grasses over wide districts of country. A very old farmer, upwards of ninety, whom I used to visit when a boy to enjoy his old anecdotes, told me that he recollected the day when the sudden thaw and heat came. The day previous, labourers were working in their greatcoats and plaids, and next day had to doff their coats and vests; but for a week or two the side of the ridge—the ridges were then almost at an angle of 45°—towards the south could only be dug or ploughed. Death from cold and hunger was not uncommon during this terrible winter." The informant was James Milne, for many years farmer at Burnton, who ended his days in straitened circumstances. Another year of disaster was 1782, which is still known as the year of the "snowy harvest." The spring and summer had been unseasonable, and this is the account which an eye-witness gave of the result in autumn: "An old man, who was still able for my harvest work, when I was a young farmer, was engaged in the '82 harvest, and he gave me the most deplorable accounts of the difficulties they had in securing the tops—for they

got little of the straw — which peeped above the frosted snow. Three and four pecks of meal to the boll were considered a good return. This and the next crop, which was deficient from bad seed, almost ruined the whole tenants in late districts."

The disaster of 1782 was exceptionally hard on many of the farmers in the parish—on all indeed on the Haulkerton estate who had been recent sufferers from another cause. A few years previously, several of the tenants of Lord Falconer, believing that they held their farms on long lease, refused to leave or renew the terms when the alternative was offered them. The case was before the Court of Session, where a decision favourable to the farmers was obtained. It was appealed to the House of Lords, and that decision was upset. Some of the farmers concerned were ruined in consequence, none of them ever fully recovered, and they all died poor men.

For many years of the century there was little security to encourage the farmer to enterprise. The Highland raid, which brought desolation on Conveth towards the close of the previous century, was not indeed often repeated. But there were troubles enough apart from the occasional presence of armies, for which, hostile or otherwise, provision had to be made, and which, whether friends or foes, were apt to indulge a spirit of mischief, in addition to direct exaction of bolls of meal for their maintenance.

Two instances may be recorded, more of a ludicrous than lamentable description, though sufficiently annoying to the parties immediately interested. On the occasion of a birth in the old farmhouse of Middleton, the "blythe-meats" were being enjoyed by

a few neighbours, when a party of the Duke of Cumberland's soldiers entered, and cleared the festive board. The house of Burnton, then in possession of a family named Christie, was visited by soldiers during the '45. They demanded milk, which not being to their satisfaction when they received it, they went into the dairy and emptied every basin of its contents. A daughter about to be married had her "providing" well secured against such a raid. It had been put into a chest, and the chest buried in what is still the garden attached to the farmhouse. To make detection impossible, and perhaps as a sly joke at the expense of the pilfering visitants, the ground beneath which lay the valuables of the bride was planted all over with "cabbage"!

But when natural causes were in favour of the farmer, even though his position had been one of greater security, he lacked the kind of implements calculated to do justice to the soil. The first quarter of the century had gone before the use of wheeled vehicles became general; and the state of the roads was not adapted for the purposes of a healthy traffic. The want in regard to the carriage of produce came to be supplied at a comparatively early date. The present century, however, had well begun before such a thing was known as a farmer's gig. The only kind of locomotion for male or female was riding or walking, as circumstances allowed. It is alleged that the first gig seen in Laurencekirk was about 1815, when Mr Barclay, at Northwater Bridge, drove down the street with one which he had recently acquired. The sight was unprecedented, and the people turned out to behold it with astonishment. The plough in gen-

eral use, an unwieldy implement, was dragged by oxen, sometimes to the number of ten or twelve. The animals have been described as "miserable specimens of the bovine race." The fault, however, was not theirs. The wonder is that, with the usage they received, they sustained existence, not to speak of yielding service. They underwent a species of slow starvation all winter, having only straw and thistles to eat in sufficient quantity for the barest subsistence. In consequence, they were so much reduced in condition and strength, that towards spring they were rarely able to rise in their stalls without help.

There is in existence a lease of the farm of Mains of Haulkerton to Alexander Cowie in 1710, from which it appears that the annual rental was under £40, and paid in kind. If the other lands were rented in proportion, the whole rental of the parish at the time had been rather less than the present rent of Mains. Agriculture was in such a backward state about the time of the '45, that offerers for farms were got with the greatest difficulty. Drumforber was to be let about that period; no tenant was forthcoming, and the proprietor was obliged to stock it himself. Even then he succeeded in inducing a tenant to enter only on condition of his receiving one-half of the profits. An old document in possession of Mr Robert Crabb, which apparently belongs to the period about 1770, and is in the handwriting of Mr Scott, schoolmaster, comprises what is termed "A list of the whole rent of the Polburn, Scottstown, and Midletouns, Bonetoun and Laurencekirk:—

George Croall in Polburn, his rent,	£59	10	10
Alexander Smart, Polburn, his rent,	59	10	10
John Watson in Scottstown, his rent,	63	7	11½
David Lawson in Whitesauch, his rent, with vickerage to Garvock included,	43	0	0
James Neitherie, his rent for honiehaive,	56	5	0
David Beattie in Spurriehillock, his rent,	28	14	7½
To his rent for Bonetoun, anexed to Spurriehillock,	1	10	0
William Robert, for Keelburn, his rent,	30	9	2
John Willock in Midsteens, his rent,	20	16	11¾
Alexander Mill, for half Bonetoun & Laurencekirk,	11	9	3¼
George Hampton, for half Bonetoun & Laurencekirk,	5	15	0
Peter Reed in Laurencekirk, for land and house-meal,	2	0	0
Mr Scott, schoolmaster, for house and land,	1	8	10½
Thomas Doors, for Borrowmealhills,	7	3	5¼."

The list shows that the rents of the farms named, over a hundred years ago, were probably, on an average, about one-tenth of the present rental.

A roup-roll of 1750 bears that full-grown cattle sold at prices from £1, 5s. to £2, 5s., and horses from £3 to £6 per head. The following is the valuation of the Mains of Haulkerton in 1756, the farm consisting then of three hundred acres. The prices are given in sterling money:—

10 young cattle,	£15	0	0	or	£1	10	0	each.
7 kine,	14	0	0	or	2	0	0	"
6 car (calves),	4	0	0	or	0	13	4	"
16 oxen,	48	0	0	or	3	0	0	"
11 horses,	55	0	0	or	5	0	0	"
Carts, ploughs, harrows, &c.,	27	1	8					
Sowing of the town,	80	0	0					
A year's maintenance,	36	6	8					

The entire value of the stock thus amounted to £276, 8s. 4d.; while the buildings, including the farm-house, were valued at less than £30.

Wheaten bread was a luxury seldom tasted by the families of working-men. A woman, well advanced

in years about half a century ago, remembered her mother, on returning from a funeral, bring home, carefully wrapped up in her handkerchief, a bit of loaf-bread for the children to taste as a rarity. At a much later period than the time to which she referred, a quartern-loaf was the weekly allowance usual in a farmer's family. A gentleman full of years remembers an occasion when he was at tea in the house of a neighbour of good position, and his companions and he were addressed by the guidwife: "Noo, lathies, grund yersel's weel wi' ate-bread, for you wad eat the muckle sorrow o' loaf!"

CHAPTER XLI.

FAIRS.

For many years the parish and burgh have given abundant facilities to the surrounding district for the ordinary traffic in cattle, horses, grain, and other agricultural produce, not to speak of the still more perishable goods in which juvenile frequenters of the market delight. In modern times the fair has in a great measure ceased to serve the purposes for which it was instituted. Formerly people were much more dependent upon the yearly or half-yearly gathering, and the miscellaneous articles offered for sale, many of which may now be purchased at the humblest shop in town or country. For clothing, furniture, and nearly all the articles required for ordinary

domestic use, the next market was looked forward to, and a year's supply provided when it came. "Sweetie-stands" were not indeed awanting at a very early date, but, in the experience of our predecessors, they were only subsidiary to the booths at which the more essential commodities of life were to be obtained. At the first Katie's market, a stand was loaded with all the varieties produced at William Bowman's starch-work. Willie Blacklaws, mistaking the article exposed for a smaller kind of sweeties, purchased a number of packages, which he distributed among the sweethearts who were claiming their "fair." He found time at last to help himself, when he contentedly remarked, "Od, lassies, they're no' very sweet, but they'll mooler awa!"

In olden times in Scotland, as in many parts of Europe at the present day, the different festivals of the Church afforded an opportunity, of which the assembled people availed themselves, of combining what they conceived to be their religious duty with the more ordinary business of life. A religious festival almost invariably resolved itself into a fair, for the purposes of barter and sale, and occasionally into something much worse; for the season, which was supposed to begin with devotion, not unfrequently ended with amusements of a reprehensible kind. It was from this custom, doubtless, that so many of the fairs have derived their names from one or other of the saints of the Romish calendar.

Three of these old established fairs are still held in the parish.

Taunton Fair, or St Anthony's Fair, established in 1646, is now held within a short distance of the

original stance, which was upon the Haulkerton estate. It has been suggested by Mr Jervise that the name implies "that there had been either a chapel in the district, or an altar in the church of Conveth, dedicated to that saint." There is no trace of such a chapel; and the supposition of the altar's existence is unnecessary, in the light of what has already been observed of the origin of such fairs. Perhaps one of the earliest notices to be found now of this fair, apart from the Haulkerton writs, is the one quoted elsewhere from the 'Black-book of Kincardineshire,' when a theft was committed at a house at Commieston "upon Tantone-market evening" in 1698.

St James's Fair has been held at Laurencekirk since 1846. Its original site was on Barnhill; and the turf seats which accommodated the frequenters of the tents are still in existence, and easily distinguished. Its name was derived from the patron saint of the parish of Garvock, in which Barnhill is situated. The right of custom belonged to the proprietor of Kirktonhill.

St Laurence Fair, better known as Louran Fair, is the last of the three. It was established in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and has lately been removed to near its original site. For many years it was one of the principal markets in the district. Its site was on the barony and within the burgh of Haulkerton, the proprietor of which had a chartered right to the usual custom. There is a tradition, not very well authenticated, of an adventure in Louran Fair, in which the heir-apparent of one of the Lords Falconer was concerned. A Highlandman had a herd of cattle at the fair, for which

he refused to pay the dues exigible by the lord of the barony. The Master of Haulkerton, who was in the neighbourhood, was sent for, to exercise his influence on the recalcitrant dealer. He made the demand in the name of Haulkerton's son, only to receive the uncourteous reply, "I've aften heard o' Haulkerton's cow, but I never heard o' his son afore." The insult, of course, could only be met with a prompt challenge to "draw and defend," and the swords of the two combatants were speedily unsheathed. After a few preliminary passes, the Celt remarked, "Tak' care o' the button on the breist o' your sark." The button particularised was shortly detached, as neatly as if it had been operated on by a lady's scissors. The Master continued to strike and parry, when he was cautioned, "Tak' care o' the button on the neck o' your sark." The button in question duly shared the fate of its predecessor. Astonished, but not daunted, the youth continued the combat, when a third caution was addressed to him, "Tak' care o' your neck." This was a warning not to go unheeded. So at least thought the Master of Haulkerton, and he was to be excused in the circumstances. He dropped the point of his sword, in token of surrender; and the custom on the Highland herd rests owing to the present day. There have been many conflicts in Louran Fair since then, but fortunately the practice of carrying swords in civil life has long been discontinued. The Highlandman's considerate coolness, and the Master's openness to conviction, are not universal characteristics in a hot dispute.

Katie's Market is comparatively a modern institution, having been established by Lord Gardenstone,

and by him named after Catherine Jack, wife of William Silver, who held the inn, now the Western Hotel, near the old market-stance. The honour was well merited; for the worthy couple and their successive representatives have done a great deal to advance the prosperity of the burgh, and especially to promote the comfort of the villagers in the west end, of whom for three generations they have been the acknowledged benefactors. To Katie's Market, too, a saintly origin has been attributed, more than one advertisement having appeared in newspapers with reference to "St Catherine's Market." The worthy old lady, who was sponsor for the name, received from her beneficiaries numerous tokens of respect in her life, but she could hardly have anticipated this honour of being canonised by strangers after her decease.

As already noticed, the royal charter provides for the burgh the liberty of holding a weekly market, as well as a free yearly fair, to begin on the first Wednesday of November, and to continue for three days successively. It needs not be added that the full extent of this liberty has not been taken advantage of. The earlier councils of the burgh were a good deal exercised in devising measures for the maintenance of order in such markets as were held. A minute of 1784 provides for the supply of three or four halberts, to suppress tumults "upon our public mercat-days," and bears an agreement that, for the purpose of discovering disorderly people, "three or four stout young fellows shall be employed, who shall be paid out of the public fund at the rate of one shilling each per day." The re-

doubted Charters was employed to manufacture the halberts, and, judging from the records, his public-house contributed very largely to the number of "disorderly people" for whose special benefit they were intended.

The Burgh Fair was held regularly for a number of years, and in the earlier records of the council there are minutes anent the uplifting of their custom. Beneath the Masons' Lodge, in the space now occupied by the town-hall, there were booths which were used for market purposes. The outlines of the arch-ways are still visible on the front wall of the building. Occasionally they were utilised as a place of temporary imprisonment. One of the last to be committed to it for safe custody, a well-known villager half a century ago, broke down the barriers and regained his liberty in a manner not pleasing to the constituted authorities.

The institution of the ordinary cattle and grain markets was due in a great measure to the exertions of Mr John Kinnear. They were held at first monthly, and on the stance at the Market-muir. By-and-by, when railway communication was obtained, it became apparent that an impetus would be given to the markets by their removal to a site nearer the railway station. Through the exertions of Mr David Dickson, and the liberal concurrence of Mr Gibbon of Johnston, a most convenient and suitable site was obtained; and the removal was effected in 1849, since which time the markets have been held once a-fortnight, and gone on increasing in size and importance. No small share of the success, which has made the Laurencekirk markets

the chief in a large district, was due to the able management and unflagging energy which Mr Dickson brought to bear upon them, until they were fairly established on a secure and permanent footing.

CHAPTER XLII.

HOSTELRIES.

Though the venerable hostelry supplies a more dignified heading for a chapter, the reader will not be disappointed to find that its sentences are pervaded with the more familiar term of "inn," with a little variety in an occasional use of the comparatively modern and more fashionable "hotel." The palatial buildings, which now provide entertainment for travellers in many outlying districts of the country, were altogether unknown in the time to which these observations apply. Even the commodious houses, which furnish the present-day visitor to Laurencekirk with comfortable quarters, belong as a rule to comparatively recent times.

The old house at Bridge of Leppie is probably a fair specimen of what the more important country inns of Scotland were during last century. It went under the name of Chance Inn, and was the only place between Brechin and Stonehaven at which posting-horses could be procured. This fact of itself indicates that it was a house of some account in the district. In 1792 the landlord, it appears, was

James Andrew, who had succeeded his father in the occupancy. Besides giving temporary accommodation to the travellers on the road, in days when the post-chaise was the only conveyance of the rich, and walking on foot the resort of the poor, it was a favourite meeting-place of farmers and others in the district.

But the earliest intimation of an inn in the parish leads back to 1699, when the village inn at Laurencekirk had two of the most illustrious literary characters of their time making acquaintance with one another, and partaking no doubt of a humble dinner under its roof. There is no means of ascertaining the site of the inn at which the meeting between Ruddiman and Pitcairne took place, and it is a pity that the name of the worthy hostess has not come down to posterity. She must have been a discerning woman who described so accurately, as appears from his whole history, the young schoolmaster who "was said to be learned, and though modest, she was sure could talk."

Further on in the century, there seems to have been two rival establishments in the village—one on the site of the present Gardenstone Arms, and the other where the Royal Hotel stands. The former was on the lands of Johnston, and the latter on the Haulkerton estate.

The first tacksman of the inn now represented by the Gardenstone Arms, and formerly called the Boar's Head Inn, of whom any particulars are known, was William Cruickshank. He was a capper by trade, and in 1720 had settled in a cottage on the Mains of Haulkerton, which was then famous for its birch-

trees. He was a stanch Episcopalian, and married a daughter of another rigid member of that communion—James Taylor, farmer at Kilnhill. The manufacture of his wooden caps and other wares yielded him in a short time sufficient capital to enable him to start as innkeeper. He had some medical skill; and his fame as a bleeder and blisterer brought invalids from many parts of the country, who no doubt added to his yearly profits. His wife having died, he married Margaret Smith, daughter of a tailor in the village, who survived the century, and whose portrait has a place among the famous sketches by Brich. She must have benefited by her husband's medical knowledge, or been endowed with a like gift in the healing art, and applied it to some purpose, as her praise was celebrated in the following lines, which were probably from the pen of Dr Beattie:—

> "The gratefull village bless'd her name,
> And all the country spoke her fame:
> For she of ev'ry herb and flower
> Had learnt the wonder-working power,
> And knew by secret art to drain
> The juice that gives relief to pain.
> In ready order rang'd around
> The balm that soothes the throbbing wound;
> Salves, cordials, Balsoms, all were there,
> As various ills required her care."

The lines are on a print published in 1784 by "John Walker, 148 Strand, near Somerset House, London." It bears that "J. Northcote pinxt., R. Marcuard sculpt.," and represents Mrs Cruickshank sitting beside a table on which stand a sand-glass, phials, and scissors. She is looking earnestly through

spectacles to the finger of a girl, on whose face a painful expression appears. A curly-headed girl of smaller size is at her back gazing between the bars of a chair, and evidently amused at the inspection; while a lank cat at the foot of the "doctress" surveys the scene with apparent unconcern.

A large part of the present building may have been in existence about 1770. Two stones, one taken from a cart-shed and the other from a stable, bear respectively the dates of 1774 and 1778, and indicate perhaps that the steading was a subsequent erection.

By the time that Lord Gardenstone had erected a commodious inn, and added a well-selected library, it is likely that Cruickshank, who was alive in 1759, had given place to a successor. Probably that successor was George Murdoch, who was the next tacksman of whom anything has been recorded. It may have been in his time that the inn was honoured with a distinguished visitor, in the person of Dr Samuel Johnson, who in 1773, in the words of Mr Boswell, "insisted on stopping at the inn at Laurencekirk when I told him that Lord Gardenstone had furnished it with a collection of books, that travellers might have entertainment for the mind as well as the body. The Doctor praised the design, but wished there had been more books, and those better chosen." Though the terms are modified, considering from whose lips they came, and that they applied to a Scottish subject, they are probably to be interpreted as an expression of the highest praise.

In 1782, George Colman the younger, the English dramatist, when in his twentieth year, and a student

at King's College, Aberdeen, paid a visit to Laurencekirk, and put up at the Boar's Head Inn. He amused himself, in the meantime, by writing in the album of the inn some verses reflecting on Scottish characteristics, of which, like his distinguished countryman, he was a well-known despiser. He afterwards described the performance by saying that he "deposited upon a profane altar his virgin offering to the Muse. This maiden effort, a ballad, was a contemptible piece of doggerel." He had occasion to return soon after; and, turning over the leaves of the album, he found that his "ballad" had elicited the following couplet, probably from the pen of the schoolmaster, Mr Scott:—

> "I like thy wit; but, could I see thy face,
> I'd claw it well for Scotia's vile disgrace."

The witty Englishman was not to be outdone, and he added these lines:—

> "Is, then, a Scotchman such a clawing elf?
> I thought he scratch'd no creature but himself!"

George Murdoch was the first bailie of the burgh, and he filled the office for six years. He had not prospered in the meantime, and his affairs were somewhat in confusion when he resigned the lease in 1786.

He was succeeded by William Cream, during whose long tenure of it the Gardenstone Arms was a flourishing establishment. It came to fill the place which Chance Inn had occupied, and was one of the most important posting-establishments of the county. Mr Cream, who was a native of Dunbar or its neighbourhood, was long butler at Kinnaird Castle, and for a few

years innkeeper in Bervie. From that burgh he came to Laurencekirk, and entered on the lease of Gardenstone Arms, which he quitted in 1828, three years before his death.

George Hutton and his son were successive proprietors of the hotel after Mr Cream, and the latter was followed by Lachlan M'Bain, who was in possession for a number of years.

Returning to the inn upon the Haulkerton estate, soon after the middle of the century it was in the hands of Alexander Beattie, who was followed by Alexander Milne, a son of the parish schoolmaster. He was also tacksman of the half of Boneytoun and Laurencekirk lands, including Diracroft or Bellakers, which seems to have been held by successive innkeepers.

One of the landlords of this inn was James Memes, in whose time it was a favourite resort of the farmers in the neighbourhood. His son became a soldier, and served with some distinction in the American war and some of the early French campaigns. On retiring from the army he was appointed sub-governor of Carlisle Castle; and while holding that office, he visited his native place, to be made a "lion" of by the general community.

It is nearly a hundred years now since the brewery was first in operation. For a considerable period Walter Adam combined the occupations of brewer and innkeeper; and, with the aid of "oor Lizzie," as he usually designated his wife, made it a successful business for a number of years. Wattie's ideas of rotation were peculiar in some respects. Referring one day to a mortality among his pigs, he remarked,

"Oor Lizzie's twa swinies de'ed time aboot." In his farming of Bellakers, which was attached to the inn, he adopted a system of rotation, the name of which may be new to those agriculturists whose attention has been most given to the vexed question of the best course of cropping. Being asked by the factor what system he adopted, he replied, "Sometimes the eens, an' sometimes the twas." This was beyond the factor's comprehension, until Walter explained that he sometimes took one crop and sometimes two from the land. On giving up the brewery he transferred his establishment to the house which he occupied during the remainder of his life, and which a huge gilt figure suspended before the door proclaimed to be the "Sign of the Grapes."

This house had previously been occupied by "Goskie," who was long well known as a character in the village. The mail-coach changed horses at his door, and every arrival found Goskie an interested spectator when there was nothing of a more practical turn to do. He spoke at all times with great volubility, and only those accustomed to his elocution could follow him with much intelligence. A question was addressed to him by a passenger; and, from the reply which was given, the gentleman concluded the old man was speaking in a foreign tongue, which he set down as French. Happening to be accompanied by a French valet, he called him down to speak with his countryman. Eugene came down, and rattled off the questions in his native tongue as fast as Goskie himself could have done in the vernacular. Goskie replied in terms as comprehensible to Eugene as Eugene's were intelligible to him.

The two stood, stared at each other, and plied their respective gibberish, until Goskie lost all patience, and turned away exclaiming, "—— buff, —— buff!"

After Walter Adam's occupancy, the inn was discontinued (with the exception of a short interval during which it was held by Mrs Downie), until, with a few modern additions, it was transformed into the present Royal Hotel, to suit the requirements of the times, and establish for itself a good reputation. The original part of the building is probably the oldest existing in the village.

Another inn was established under the patronage of Lord Gardenstone, partly to supply the wants of the villagers in the west end, and partly as a convenient adjunct to the Market-muir. It was owned by William Silver, an original feuar, who with his wife, Catherine Jack, enjoyed the favour and confidence of his lordship. They were succeeded by the eldest of three daughters, who married her cousin, John Kinnear, who for many years was a respected elder of the parish. Under the able management of the present proprietor and his wife, the Western Hotel has not only exceeded the material proportions, but also maintained the excellent character, of Katie's Inn.

The Swan Inn, which stood on the present site of Alma Place, was long an institution in Laurencekirk. Alexander Downie, its landlord, excelled as a violinist, and his fiddle added greatly to the attractions of the house. On one occasion an Italian, who was a distinguished musician, was visiting in the neighbourhood; and he had heard so much of Downie's performances, that he desired to hear and judge for himself. His

friends accompanied him to the Swan, and the landlord having been called was asked to favour them with a tune. To this, however, he demurred: perhaps he was not in the mood—perhaps he was slightly jealous of the foreigner. The gentleman was much disappointed; but his friends, who knew the landlord's peculiarities, gave him a hint to take the violin himself. The ruse was successful. Some fine Italian airs were played. Downie listened for a while with great impatience, and at last he burst out, "Tuts, min, that's jist cats fechtin'; gie me the fiddle."

Alexander Downie, his eldest son, was a painter by trade. A portion of his life was spent in London, but he had returned to his native village before the close. At his death he bequeathed his whole estate to special trustees, to be applied at their discretion to purposes of secular education, and the residue to charitable objects. It occurred at the time when legislative provision had just been made for elementary education. The trustees having full powers of action, and desirous of adopting the best means of promoting the object in view, after due deliberation fixed upon the endowment of three bursaries, tenable for two years, and open for competition to boys and girls from Laurencekirk and five neighbouring parishes which were designed to share the benefits. The scheme has been carefully wrought, and hitherto with eminent success.

The smaller establishments, which have never risen above the dignity of a "public-house," are too numerous to be recorded. There has never lacked a sufficient number to the size of the population, though once a flutter arose among the drouthier

portion of it, when a report was spread that the licence was to be taken from all the houses but Macbain's and Kinnear's. A villager who was not on visiting terms at either, was heard bemoaning the gloomy prospect to a crony, "Oh dear me! what *will* we do when T'october comes?"

CHAPTER XLIII.

OLD CUSTOMS.

Spinning.—The spinning-wheel was an indispensable article of furniture in the farmhouse of last century. When the farmers of the district repaired to Laurence or Paldy Fair to dispose of their cattle, they were frequently accompanied by their wives, who felt no scruple about making the best bargain of the "home-made claith" which they exposed for sale. Towards the close of the century they had not only to compete with the manufacturers and weavers of Laurencekirk and the district, but had their goods tested by a certain standard, and marked officially according to their merits. The stamp-master in Laurencekirk was John Skae, who was himself a weaver and manufacturer. There was a stamp-office in the village, where his ordinary duties were performed. But, for the convenience of dealers and others, he went to the neighbouring markets; and latterly his temporary office there was "Kinnear's

tent," which has been a recognised institution in all the fairs of the district for a long series of years.

The spinning was not confined to the mistress of the household and her daughters. Domestic servants were trained to the work, and the amount of their wages depended upon the daily stent of which they were capable. Where two servants were in a house, it was usual to engage them to take week about of the ordinary work and at the spinning-wheel. To encourage the practice in the village, there were periodical exhibitions of work; and prizes were given by Lord Gardenstone, of spinning-wheels and other useful articles, to those who were adjudged the most accomplished spinsters.

Smuggling.—A practice of a less commendable kind was carried a good many years into the present century. Its pernicious effects were not confined to the smugglers, but extended to all who had frequent dealings with them. No reasonable law can be long violated with impunity, or without the loss of self-respect. A fanciful estimate was put upon the quality of Highland whisky, which made it superior in the eyes of the purchaser to anything produced from a licensed distillery. Its cheapness was not the only recommendation; the risk inseparable from procuring it gave a zest which the lawfully-procured article never imparted. Many a keg was concealed in the barn on almost all the farms in the parish, sometimes, but not always, without the connivance of the farmers. Usually it was committed to the hiding-place, in confidence of being found all right when the time for safe removal arrived. The officers of the Revenue were zealous in the watch,

and often successful in capture; but the tacit acquiescence of the people put them to great disadvantage. The means employed for its suppression were of a systematic kind. Watchmen were stationed at prominent points, to watch the Highlanders on their approach laden with the contraband goods; and a regular system of signalling was instituted, so that frequently the lawless *cortège* was pounced upon when least suspicious of danger. Occasionally they paid home the persecution, of which they conceived themselves to be the innocent sufferers.

An official connected with the parish, who was famous as a terror to the wrong-doers, for once became their victim. In a solitary expedition, on a lone spot on the hill, he met a band of two or three men with a pony laden with kegs. He never hesitated to encounter any number of opponents, and his first act was to fire upon the only irresponsible agent in the affair, the poor beast of burden. The discharge of his second barrel was needed to effect his purpose; and the men, watching their opportunity, closed upon him when his pistol was harmless. They bound him securely with ropes, and tied him to a tree. Coolly removing the skin from the dead shalt and wrapping it round their enemy, they left him in his novel attire to reflect on the consequences of his unpremeditated action. They bore away as much of their merchandise as they could conveniently carry, and, on reaching the first inhabited house, informed the inmates where and how they would find the gauger, if they had a mind to rescue him from his dilemma.

Social visiting. — A custom formerly prevailed

which would be regarded in these days as a strange one. It was most unusual for neighbours to visit each other at their own houses. They met, perhaps, more frequently than they do now. But it was by appointment in a public-house, when the evening was spent at "catch the ten," the favourite game at cards. The houses in which those reunions were most frequent were the inn of James Memes, and the "houf" at Bridge of Leppie, which still exists, a relic of many a jovial scene. This practice prevailed so much, that a farmer, whose parents were married in 1803, was assured by his mother that her brother, who had been several years in the immediate neighbourhood, had never been within the door of his future brother-in-law until the eve of his marriage, notwithstanding that they had been on the most friendly terms. If the more comfortable and luxurious homes of the present day had nothing else to recommend them, it would have been enough in their praise to have been instrumental in effecting a social change of this beneficial character.

Many of the convivial meetings, during the transition, were more akin to the old "public" scenes, than to the modern reunion of friends—especially when there was no guidwife to see that the proprieties were observed. An evening gathering in a bachelor's house was not rarely a boisterous party. There was one which may be recorded as a specimen. The host, who was not of the parish however, and his guests, several of whom were, were discussing feats of strength; and conscious of his physical power, he laid a wager that he would throw all the chairs in the room over the roof of the house. It was ac-

cepted of course, and willing hands soon conveyed the articles of furniture outside. The acceptor's account of the transaction was: "I saw them ane aifter anither spinnin' ower the riggin', an' thocht it was a' up wi' me; but my houp lay in the airm-chair." The hope was justified: the arm-chair failing to clear the roof, the host had the satisfaction of seeing his good furniture reduced to fragments, and losing his wager to the bargain.

But such "frolicsome" proceedings were not universal, or even general. Oftener there was hilarity without roughness, and practical joking without injury to person or feeling. Occasionally a bumptious individual was put down without ceremony. An English sojourner in the neighbourhood, who was given to brag, remarked to the company on such an occasion, "Things have been very bad of late; you wouldn't believe it, but I've lost a hundred pounds during the last week." "A hunder pounds, min!" was the ready reply of a neighbour,—"that's naething ava, min; there's a man at the end o' the table that'll loss twa hunder pounds ony week,—upon a curn auld yowes, min, without a teeth in their heid, min." It is not apparent how the loss would have been alleviated if the ewes had been younger, and furnished with good dentals; but, ever after, the casual loser of the hundred pounds kept his opinion of the hardness of the times to himself.

Funerals.—One of the most gratifying improvements on the customs of the last century is the more seemly manner in which funeral obsequies are conducted. The testimony of elderly persons shows that, until comparatively a recent date, there was

little decorum manifest on those solemn occasions. A dinner, not unaccompanied with the ordinary marks of festivity, was common in the houses of farmers and others of like position, either before or after the interment. There was hard drinking enough, even when this was not the case; and the procession to the open grave was not always marked with the ordinary signs of sobriety. When promiscuous dinners were almost abolished, it was still the custom to partake too freely of strong drink. The usual practice was to receive a glass of whisky on entering the house, and partake of three glasses of wine at least before leaving.

Early in the present century there lived in the village a retired farmer, from the parish of Dun, named James Spankie. He was somewhat eccentric, and made use of language not always *apropos* to the occasion. At his wife's funeral, he was at his proper place, supporting the head of the coffin. The road was not very smooth, and once or twice he stumbled on the way. At length he addressed the bearers: "Canny, canny, billies; it's nonsense to mak' a toil o' a pleasure,—tak' mair time." There was dinner at his house, after the party had returned from the churchyard. In due time he asked a farmer of the parish to brew the punch, remarking, in what he meant for a compliment, "You're the best drinker, and the best judge of good punch in the pairish." When all were ready he proposed a bumper to the health of the company, saying, "Noo, gentlemen, tak' your glass heartily; there hasn't been such a party in my house since my dochter's marriage." "That may be, James," remarked the minister,

"but this is a very different occasion;" and James replied, "True, sir, but everything is beautiful in its season!"

CHAPTER XLIV.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL.

Be not alarmed, sensitive reader! The impartial historian is denied the benefit of that wholesome rule which shelters the speaker at an agricultural dinner. He must deal with politics, not as a prohibited subject of discussion, but as a prescribed chapter in his history. And it is well that it should be so. Whatever your views on the social and political problems which agitate the minds of the nation may be, and however strongly you may be impressed with the thought that yours are the right views, and all other views are wrong, you must be deeply interested in knowing that those very questions began at an early date to exercise the thoughts of parishioners and burgesses of Laurencekirk.

Those lively conflicts between capital and labour known by the short and pithy name of "strikes" manifested themselves at an early period in the history of the burgh, to which in all probability belongs the credit of one of the first strikes recorded, if not the very first strike of which an authentic narrative has come to the present day. The distinction, such as it was, was conferred by the tailors; and it resulted from the once general, now obsolete,

practice of "whuppin' the cat"—that is, going out to work in the houses of their employers. In the early years of the century, the rate of remuneration for a long day's labour was sixpence, with food supplied. No wonder that grievances arose to disturb the minds of the craft, who in dealing with them anticipated the wisdom of later times, having recourse in the first instance to what is still the universal resort of the disaffected—a public meeting. One of their number, whose sagacity was held to be indispensable to the counsels, was confined to the house by a broken leg. The convention met in his dwelling, and his couch served the purpose of that modern institution the chair. Resolutions were passed similar to those with which the present generation is familiar, embracing of course demands for an increase of wages and a reduction of hours. There was one grievance peculiar to the time, for which a remedy was sought in the supply of better food for the workman. The "chairman" heard with silent approval the resolutions bearing on wages and hours, but when the motion for a sufficient diet had been eloquently proposed, he became excited, and forgetting his fractured limb in the heat of his energy he started up, dashed his night-cap to the foot of the bed, and exclaimed with fervour, "Ay, billies, whatever else is dune, the brose maun be disabolished!"

It is only fair to the general community, who were more or less concerned in these reflections, to put on record a well-authenticated instance of a liberal diet's being provided, and to ask the reader to believe that it was only one of many exceptions to

the alleged system of insufficient feeding. In one house the tailor got an egg to his breakfast. On breaking the shell he put a little butter into the egg, when he was asked by the guidwife, "Div you tak' butter to your egg, tailor?" "Ay, it saftens a hard-boiled egg." Next morning care was taken that the tailor's egg was not boiled so hard; but still he was seen applying the butter, and the question was put, "Is your egg ower hard the day, tailor?" "Na, guidwife; butter gies the saft-boiled egg a wonderfu' consistency."

Indeed some of the trade, thus urgent in the demand for their rights, were not indisposed to help themselves slyly to shortened hours and other advantages when they had an opportunity. The work was generally executed in presence of the housewife, and it required ingenuity to escape detection when it was deemed necessary to "slim a job." There was one who invented a set of phrases, which he taught his apprentices, and thus communicated with them without the risk of suspicion. In his phraseology, "sittin' nearer the door" was equivalent to "making longer stitches." One day he thought the work behind, and plied the youth beside him with so many "Sit-nearer-the-door-laddies," that the laddie replied in desperation, "Aweel, maister, if I'm to sit nearer the door noo, I may jist mak' bassin o'd a'thegither!"

It is noticeable that one of the earliest political incidents recorded of the burgh was also a "public meeting," presided over by a worthy parishioner, and enthusiastic in the cause for which it had assembled. That cause was reform, the necessity for which was

satisfactorily proved in speeches, more or less eloquent, ending with the usual resolution in favour of petitioning both Houses of Parliament. The chairman, to whom was committed the duty of transmitting the petition, selected the Duke of Wellington as the peer most worthy of the burgh's confidence and esteem. With due courtesy the hero of Waterloo was approached by the representative of the burgh, in words to this effect: "The chairman of a public meeting of inhabitants of Laurencekirk, along with the enclosed petition, presents his compliments to Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington; he trusts that his Grace has recovered from his late indisposition, and will be long spared to be a blessing to this country." To which, with strict military despatch, came the following reply: "F.M. the Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to the chairman of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Laurencekirk, and begs to state that, were he to present all the petitions intrusted to him, and reply to all the inquiries made after his health, he would not be long spared to be a blessing to this or any other country." It is matter of general history, however, that the petition was granted by the distinguished bodies to which it had gone.

On the 7th day of June 1832 the Reform Bill was passed, and on the 10th of August following, the burgh, as in duty bound, held a jubilee to celebrate the occasion. A holiday was proclaimed; and in the evening, a bonfire on the Market-muir, under the superintendence of David Craik, was surrounded with a multitude of applauding electors and non-electors. But the great event of the day

was a grand procession of the various lodges and societies, under the leadership of their respective masters. The members of the different bodies represented convened in the town-hall, and marched in procession in the following order: The Juvenile Society; the Lodge of Oddfellows—Andrew Nicoll, Depute-Master; the Wright Society—James Douglas, Master; the Weaver Society—John Stephen, Master; the Gardener Society—George Henderson, Master; the Lodge of Free Masons—James Mitchell, Master; the Bailie and Council.

The Juvenile Society witnessed in a striking manner the precocity of the youths of Laurencekirk. In imitation of their seniors they formed a union, and the society had its master, past-master, wardens, and all the subordinate officials. The subscription was one penny per month; and the accumulated fund, when, after a few years' existence, the society was dissolved, amounted to £30, yielding about 10s. ahead of division-money.

In due time the first political election under the Reform Act was the most stirring event in Laurencekirk, and it may be taken for granted that both political parties in this first great struggle acquitted themselves in a manner not unworthy of the reputation of the burgh. It is unnecessary to follow them here through the various details of plotting and counter-plotting, canvassing for and canvassing against, extolling one and declaiming against another. These are all incidents of periodic occurrence; and it is only the more striking events of that remarkable contest that can be recorded in these pages.

St James's Fair had not then abandoned its lofty

site on Barnhill; and never perhaps, before or since, has such a lively gathering been held for traffic under patronage of the saint, as when a seat in the first Reformed Parliament was one of the subjects of competition. The Garvock Road presented for the time the appearance of a stream of passengers bent for the fair, in expectation of seeing the two candidates for political honour. In the number was James Graham of Morphie, then a residenter in the village, who was slowly wending his way by the side of the Cairn Wood, when a vehicle drove up, and its occupant asked him in passing, "Is your nephew to be in the market, Mr Graham?" It was the opposing candidate, and his question elicited the quiet remark, appropriate to the occasion, "No, I believe not; my nephew is neither to be bought nor sold."

But the candidates and their friends did not confine their operations to the casual gatherings in the district. Laurencekirk, as its importance merited, was one of the chief seats of committee, and the Gardenstone Arms was the headquarters of one of the most influential. The space in front of the inn was usually crowded with a host of people, somewhat violent in their demonstrations, when the committee were known to have met. Captain Barclay of Urie was a member, and the close sitting was irksome to the distinguished pedestrian. He proposed to go out and make a survey, and was entreated not to venture, as he would certainly be assailed by the more violent of the clamorous visitors. "They had better not try," was his only remark; and he was soon coolly walking up and down the pavement, which was at once cleared for him. The

Captain's strength of arm was too well known to encourage a personal encounter, — the crowd kept at a respectable distance, and only one had the boldness to dare the redoubted antagonist. He advanced in pugilistic form, and declared his contempt for the something-unmentionable Tory. The Captain stood unmoved until his assailant came within arm-reach, when he seized poor Jamie's nose between two fingers as with the grip of a vice, turned him easily round, and, by the application of his foot, sent him sprawling among the feet of the crowd. The Captain resumed his walk, and was not interrupted again. The last seen of Jamie that day was when he was slinking away quietly, holding the compressed organ with both hands, as if to make sure that it was still there.

At last came the decisive day. Every possible voter was sent to the polling-booth at Fettercairn. One old man, who had been bedridden for years, was medically inspected, declared equal to the occasion, lifted into a carriage, and driven to the poll in charge of a zealous member of committee. A sensation was produced by the appearance of the veteran elector, and a voice came from the crowd, "Losh keep me, Carnie, you've surely gaen to the kirkyaird for that ane!" The old voter was nothing worse of the excitement, but greatly revived by the good things provided, and able for months after to go about a little every day.

Laurencekirk had a band of musicians, of which it was proud; and no one felt greater pride in it than the worthy Mrs Farquhar, its acknowledged patroness. She had contributed largely to the fund

which provided the musical instruments, and furnished besides a handsome uniform to the men. (When performing one day at Johnston Lodge a visitor remarked, "What nice trousers they have, Mrs Farquhar!" "They are all mine!" replied the lady addressed.) It is not to be wondered at that the services of the band were in requisition on the election-day. They were engaged by the supporters of one of the candidates to march with them in procession to the booth. But the leaders of the band had a weakness for strong waters. The opposition knew it, and took wily advantage. At the appointed hour they put in an appearance dejected and woe-begone, the consequence of a whole night's liberal entertainment at the "Sign of the Grapes." They were hailed with delighted satisfaction by one party in the crowd, and would have been regarded with less pleasant feeling by the other but for a surprise in store. The derisive cheer was hardly raised when a lively tune was struck up from the top of an omnibus, which had just come in sight with a band of well-equipped professionals in brilliant uniform. The treating tactics had been discovered in time to provide a musical substitute from Montrose; and, though poor Willie Walker was left behind *non compos* for that day, the march to the polling-booth was enlivened with the strains of "See the Conquering Hero comes!" Whether the return journey was cheered by a like triumphal tune, must have depended on the party in whose hands was the retaining-fee of the musicians, or at whose head was the conquering hero who had carried off the honours of the day.

CHAPTER XLV.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The seat of the Sheriff-Court was for eighty years at the town of Kincardine. It was removed by Act of Parliament to Stonehaven in 1600; and since then, in terms of the Act, "the haill lieges within the schire" have had "to compeir to perseu and defend in thair courtis at the Stanehyve in all tyme heirefter." One of the prominent reasons assigned for the transference is curious, being "that the Schiref of the Mernis *alias* Kincardine, and his deputtis, hes bene in use this mony zeris to sit at Kincardin, quhair thair is nather ane tolbuth nor any hous to pairties to ludge into for thair intertenemet, quhairby the lieges are greatulie damnifeit." A storehouse belonging to Earl Marischal was fitted up as a court-house and tolbooth, and continued until 1767 to be the seat of the court. The earliest record existing of a criminal trial before the court of Stonehaven dates from the close of the seventeenth century; and as the parties concerned hailed from the parish of Conveth, it may be interesting to give it in full as it appears in the 'Black-book of Kincardineshire,' a suggestive little volume published at Stonehaven in 1843.

"Alexander Gill, 1698, *6th March.*

"The which day there being a boy apprehended and sent prisoner to the tolbooth by John Carnegie, at the Mill of Conveth, whom he and his millart had apprehended in his mill after he

had broken a hole in the gable of the said mill on Friday last, at night, and had filled his pock full of meal which he had taken out of a sack then standing there, and whom they took with the fang. And on Thursday last, the said John Carnegie alleged he had taken some more meal that night. Which boy being prisoner in the tolbooth of Stonehaven, and being called and convened before the Sheriff-Depute, and being examined in the said matter, did acknowledge and confess that his name was Alexander Gill, son to the deceased Michael Gill in Barrack, in the parish of New Deer; that his mother was dead. And confessed that the said John Carnegie and his millart at the Mill of Conveth had taken him when he had broken the said mill, and that on Friday night he had two pecks and a half of meal out of the said mill, which he had thrown down in the trough during the time they were opening the doors, thinking to deny the same, and to make his escape. And likewise confessed that, having come to Andrew Renny's house in Strait Craigs of Garvock, a weaver there, on Wednesday last, in the evening, and having lodged there all night, the said Andrew Renny told him that he would get meal very easily taken out of the said mill, and told him that a boy, John Renny, his son, had been there and taken out some meal out of the said mill before, and desired him to go with his son to-morrow, being Thursday; and accordingly his son and he went there on Thursday night last, and entered at the bridge-window, and both filled their pocks full of meal out of a sack standing there, and carried the same home to Andrew Renny's, and that the said Andrew Renny desired him to go again and steal more on Friday night last, which he did, and was then apprehended as above-mentioned. And declares that he cannot read nor write, and that he knew not the said mill, nor the way to enter, till he was told of it, and the son pointed out to him the way he had entered before, and denies that he ever committed any other theft. Banished the shire for ever."

The same year, on March 17th, a number of persons were "summoned to underly the law at the instance of Robert Keith, Procurator-Fiscal of the county, for selling meal by measure and not by weight, as being

contrary to the Act of Parliament." Among them were Robert Clark, at Mill of Haulkerton, and his spouse; and William Milne, in Hill of Haulkerton, and Margaret Mitchell, his spouse. The parties were severally fined for the offence.

It is not a pleasant reflection that, within the last two centuries, human life was held so cheap that capital punishment was inflicted in cases of very ordinary theft, such as would now, on repeated conviction, entail at most a few years of penal servitude. On the 28th March 1699, William Edmonstone was indicted at Stonehaven for a series of thefts committed in company with his sons, and ranging over a considerable portion of the Mearns, one of these being at a house at Commieston "upon Tantone-market evening." Another count in the indictment was that, on a certain day, he did "break the victual-house of Alexander Cowie, beside the Mill of Halkerton, at least enter in at the door, having opened the same with a pass-key, and did theftuously steal and away-take a great pockful of meal. And that one of your pocks full of meal was left behind." The evidence in this particular charge is thus recorded: "Likeas, compeared, Alexander Cowie, whose victual-house was broken in manner libelled. Being desired to declare ingenuously what victual he wanted, he declared that out of a six-firlot sack, which he had standing in his victual-house, he wanted about two pecks, but knew not who were the actors till now, and that a little pock was left behind in the victual-house." The evidence, it must be confessed, proved him an undoubted professional thief. The "assyse," whose chancellor was Alex-

ander Hog in Newtoune, "all in one voice ffinds William Edmonstone, sone to ye deceast William Edmonstone, elder (who was also designated a thief), guilty of theft, both by his own confessione, and probatine led agt. him." In due course "the Sheriff-substitute, by the mouth of John Frayser, dempster of court, decerns and adjudges the said William Edmonstone to be taken to the Gallowhill upon Monday next, the 3d of April instant, betwixt the hours of ane and four in the afternoon, and there to be hanged on a gibbet till he be dead, and all his moveable goods and gear to be escheat, which is pronounced for doom." Nor does it take away from the gravity of such record to know that a woman, Agnes Muffat, though not an accomplice, was, for similar offences of her own, included in the indictment, and his companion on the gallows. It was not unusual for those whose offences were not visited with capital punishment to receive such a sentence as this, which a certain Alexander Matheson and Christian Welsh were ordained to bear—viz., "to be scourged through the town of Stonehaven the morrow, by the hand of the common hangman; and thereafter to be brought back to prison, to be carried fettered by the arms, in company with John Erskine, condemned thief, to the Gallowhill, and there to stay till he be executed; and thereafter to be kicked with the foot of the common hangman; and banishes them this shire thereafter for ever, never to be seen therein thereafter, under the pain of death." There is one case of "pyckine and small theft" recorded, in which, in addition to the above penalties, the culprit was ordained to inter the body of the man who had been

hanged, and to whom he was tied with ropes when on the way to the gallows. Those cases were both in 1700.

The last trial to be recorded in the words of the 'Black-book' is of a less tragic description: "1747.—John Low, tenant in Easthill of Johnston, charged, among other thefts, with having stolen four oxen and a quey from Andrew Glen, in East Mains of Balfour. It appears that panel offered Glen as many of his cattle as would satisfy him for those he had stolen. Glen having rejected this offer, panel agreed to pay him one hundred pounds Scots, on condition that he would not inform the procurator-fiscal of the theft; but he failed to fulfil his promise. Panel gave in a petition to the sheriff stating that, although all the crimes charged against him could not be proved, as he could not afterwards live with any comfort or character in the country, he craved to be transported to any of his Majesty's plantations in America, never to return. Peter Barclay, of Johnston, stated that the panel had been about three years and upwards a tenant in his ground, and that he knew him to be a poor wretch, and of a very low degree of understanding. Mr James Smith, minister at Garvock, stated that he knew panel to be a poor weak creature, and a sort of crack-brained fool. Prayer of panel's petition granted."

As time rolled on, the sheriff's court became shorn of its awe-impelling influence. Tradition has many tales of later trials, in which comedy is the prevailing feature, one of which may be recorded as an example. The tenant of a small farm was sued for

harvest-wages at the small-debt court. When the prosecutor had laid bare his grievance, the defender was asked to state his case, which he did in these words: "I fee't 'im for the hairst, and to tak' up the taties. The hairst was deen afor the taties war ready, an' my gentleman wan hame a week or twa. I sent him word fan the taties were ready, an' he never cam'. I was sair petten aboot. Instead o' wages, I think he ocht to be fine-it, my Lord; fat think 'ee?"

To the annals of prison-life in modern times a small contribution may be made from Laurencekirk. About a quarter of a century ago, a well-known resident of the burgh was convicted of an offence for which a sentence of penal servitude was awarded. Prior to his conviction he had been lodged in the prison at Stonehaven; and, after some months' experience in a convict establishment, he wrote to the worthy chaplain, of whose services he retained a lively recollection, informing him that, as regarded physical comforts, he was tolerably well off, but that he sorely missed his "fine discoorses," and indeed had not been privileged to listen to a "sound gospel sermon sin' he left the jail o' Stanehive." Another residenter was committed to ward at Stonehaven on a less serious charge, but to feel the indignity much more acutely. His first effort to partake of a prison diet was unsuccessful, and a fellow-prisoner kindly remonstrated with him, "Cheer up, sir! dinna lat your spirits doun." After repeated attempts of the kind, all to no purpose, he applied himself more vigorously to his own share of the food, remarking, "Weel, weel, please yoursel'; this is Liberty Hall!"

The grotesque idea did more to recover his neighbour's appetite than all his expressions of sympathy had done.

The erection of a prison at Laurencekirk was one of the great events of the year 1841. The juvenile population looked on with a feeling akin to awe, and pondered its terrible bearing on future conflicts with Sandy Mather. By-and-by, familiarity with the once dreaded object produced its usual effect on the minds of some. So much so, without compunction be it said, this short narrative of the prison-house is penned under a grateful recollection of the shelter often found within its cells. The first keeper was James Kennedy, an old soldier of the 1st Royals, who, with his wife, an Irishwoman, and their only surviving child, occupied the permanently habitable part of the building. Mrs Kennedy was the kindest-hearted and simplest-minded little woman to whom the keys of a prisoner's cell were ever committed; and it was no small boon, on rainy days, to have the privilege of either cell for "a game at the bools," or access to both cells, when the exigencies of Jamie Kennedy and his playmates required it.

One of the earliest to find their way in regular course to the prison-cell conducted himself in such a riotous manner, that Mrs Kennedy, in her husband's temporary absence, deemed it expedient to get quit of a troublesome neighbour with the greatest expedition. When all her efforts for quiet had failed, she unlocked the door, and told the man to go about his business for a noisy fellow—an order which was promptly obeyed. When James returned and found his prisoner had escaped, his military sense of

duty was sadly hurt, and the only satisfaction he could obtain was, "But railly now, James, what could I do when he was making such a noise?"

CHAPTER XLVI.

VAGABONDISM.

The circumstances of the country during the greater part of the eighteenth century were likely to engender a larger amount of vagabondism than would have existed in more prosperous times. It is still the case (as this year of 1880 most amply testifies) that every depression in trade produces a larger crop of vagrants, homeless wanderers, who subsist somehow upon the charity of the resident population. The earliest existing records of the kirk-session show that besides the parish poor, whose wants were systematically supplied, there were hosts of casual applicants, whose claims on the whole were favourably considered. One or two were of a peculiarly distressing kind. Among the earliest entries of the sort were these :—

		s.	d.
"1705.	*August* 26.—Given to Mr James Spark, a deposed Episcll minister, . .	14	06
	Nov. 4.—To a man without league or arm,	06	08
1706.	*Nov.* 3.—Given to John Constantine, once a Popish friar, now turned Protestant, ...	12	00."

There is notice of these chance suppliants from time

to time during the next thirty years; and the system of indiscriminate almsgiving was found to be so unsatisfactory, that an effort was made in 1737 to suppress its more clamant evils. In the interests of the poor themselves, and for the prevention as much as possible of vagabondism, a list of the poor of the parish was made up by the kirk-session. Their individual circumstances and characters were carefully considered, and badges were given to some of them (which are still in the repositories of the kirk-session), conferring the privilege of going from house to house within certain bounds, and with the express sanction of the ecclesiastical authorities.

But apart from those cases of what may be regarded as the more deserving poor, whose indigence was mainly due to infirmity of mind or body, or had been the result of circumstances which reflected no disgrace upon themselves, there was a class of vagabonds infesting the Mearns who were neither so deserving of sympathy, nor likely to be found grateful for favours bestowed. Their character was usually a combination of the fool and the knave—the latter more frequently preponderating. It is only of the comparatively more recent of these that any particulars have come down.

One of the earliest of whom tradition speaks was Neil More, a disgusting fellow, who was only harmless when, as happened often, he was helplessly drunk.

Another notorious member of the vagrant class was Jock Gudefellow, whose name was no indication of his character. His misfortunes would have made him an object of charity, if his language had not been too repulsive for the ordinary ear. He had no legs,

but with the aid of powerful arms he propelled himself along on a board fastened to his body at a rate equal to the usual speed of the pedestrian. In this manner he is said to have travelled all the way to Edinburgh, though his regular circuit was in Angus and Mearns. He died in 1810, at Tillyarblet, in the parish of Lethnot, and the following lines by James Bowick of Montrose relate to him :—

> "There's he who slid from Perth to Aberdeen
> Upon his hands and buttocks, as they say ;
> Jock Gudefellow was the creature's name, I ween,
> Who ofttimes scared the children from their play ;
> But now the fearful wight hath passed into the clay."

More lately another old man, also without legs, was carried about from farm to farm on a hand-barrow. He was often tormented by boys on the way, and he had a peculiar mode of defence. He spat at the assailant whom he could not otherwise reach. Practice had made him such an adept at this novel means of warfare, and he aimed with such precision, that no one within fifteen or twenty yards of him could deem himself out of due range.

Ned Macdonald and his crew, consisting often of from a dozen to a score of old and young, made regular visits to the village, which they sometimes enlivened with their notes of family discord. Beyond an occasional act of pilfering, however, they were not regarded as dangerous to the community.

The half-yearly markets and annual fairs brought a quota of vagrants of more respectable character, but all of them "queer." The vendor of 'Belfast Almanacs,' and his rival, the seller of 'Orr's Scotch

Almanacs,' both of course "for the *en*suing year," were sure to be at the autumn and winter gatherings.

There also occasionally, but more frequently at the summer markets, about half a century ago, or later still, was John Grant of Livet Glen, reciting volubly in the purest Aberdeen dialect his own rhymes on things ecclesiastical, political, and social.

There also was John Greig—Johnnie Gwig, as he called himself, or the "Marquis of Breadalbane," as he was called by some—with his basket of small-wares, including "pictur'-books to the bairns." Johnnie had a peculiar knack of insuring a sale. On entering a house, his first act was to put a "pictur'-book" into the hands of any of the children whom he found present. He then exposed his wares to the eye of the head of the house, and whenever he failed to make a sale, he ended with the hint, "You'll maybe pay the bairns' bookies, then; they're only a bawbee the piece."

But the most popular of all, among the juveniles at the fair, was Michael Cowie, with his complete paraphernalia for the captivating game of "rowley-powley." The nervous twitchings of his body, his habit of constantly muttering to himself, his propensity to dart off without the slightest notice in the midst of a game, with pins and ball hastily consigned to repose among the gingerbread, his zigzag shuffling pace for the next five minutes with the basket on his arm, and his equally sudden deposit of the basket and arrangement of the pins whenever the thought struck him, were all parts of the man familiar to the youths, and imparting new zest to their amusement every time they occurred.

Nor is "Singin' Willie" (Willie Ga') to be forgotten in such a retrospect, with his succession of crooked walking-sticks, any one of which must have taxed his ingenuity in selection, and cost him much labour before it got the finishing touch of his knife. It was never easy to catch the precise sound of Willie's voice, unless in the refrain of his songs, when it was difficult to discover the sense, the invariable termination of every verse being most distinctly articulate—

"Wi' a ying, ying, ying,
An' a ying, ying, ying."

The mention of "Singin' Willie" suggests the name of another itinerant musician, Charles Stormonth, whose performance on the violin has been described as exquisite. Charles had been a tea-dealer in fair circumstances, until, failing in business, and infirm in health, he was reduced to travelling with his violin as the means of support. He was a harmless man, and a favourite with most people, proud of showing, wherever he went, a certificate which he held from Mr Cowie, late of Mains of Haulkerton, which contained the following sentence: "He has been blessed mentally with few of the gifts of nature, and still fewer, in a pecuniary sense, with the bounties of Providence." In his peregrinations, Charles carried about with him a manuscript, in which he did not fail to record the kind of reception which he met at the various houses at which he called. He drew from his own point of view a lifelike description of many of the farmers of Angus and Mearns, whose characters were depicted in terms flattering or the reverse, according as Charles had been hospit-

ably or otherwise entertained at their respective houses.

When the village was honoured with a visit from bands, such as Ned Macdonald and his party, and they did not carry the customary tent along with them, they were housed during the night in any outbuilding which might be available. For many years the other tramps found a lodging in the house of Mrs Smith, in which the laws of cleanliness and order were, considering the circumstances, admirably observed. Whoever knew her husband, Johnnie Smith, and remembers his simple character and genial disposition, will be astonished that his name should ever have been coupled with notorious scoundrels like Burke and Hare. Yet so it was. He was servitor to Dr Fettes for many years, equally at home in the stable and in the surgery. One Christmas night he had been detained later than usual. About midnight two guests on their way from a party met an old man loitering on the street, and dejected in his appearance. When accosted, he told them he could find no place to lodge in. They directed him to Mrs Smith's; but when the house was pointed out, he declared with a shudder that he would rather lie among the snow than go there. It turned out that he had already taken quarters at the house, and gone to bed. A thin partition separated his apartment from the kitchen, and awaking from his first sleep, he heard a voice inquire, "Is John come up frae the doctor's yet?" Connecting it in his mind with the stories current at the time, he got up as fast as possible, made his exit, and had wandered in the street for hours.

The licensed mendicancy was continued to the passing of the Poor Law Act, though the badges had ceased to be given. A few lingering individuals of the craft may be recalled.

David Walker, *alias* "Gantin Dauvid," when, from growing corpulency and increasing infirmity, no longer able to go his rounds on foot, was presented with a "coach," the traction of which was left to volunteers. He was sometimes to be seen on the street, seated in solitary magnificence, with none to lend a helping hand. At other times a superfluity of willing workers were contesting for the honour. And it was curious to note that the effect of those two very different positions was precisely the same on David—a powerful muscular effort to relieve his feelings by the use of very strong words. With difficulty the strong language always found utterance, but somehow the relief never appeared to come. If "Dauvid's" coach had been lined with bags of gold, instead of being charged with an old meal-pock, he could not have lorded it more vehemently over the general inhabitants of the burgh.

Robbie Cathro was another remnant of the system. His appearance may yet be recalled as he hobbled (he could never be said to walk) along the street, with a meal-pock in one hand and a sturdy stick in the other, while the mouth of a tin whistle protruded at the corner of one of his capacious pockets. Robbie was a musician, wholly independent of the ordinary rules of harmony. When performing at the Manse he was asked by a lady, "What tune was that you played last, Robbie?" "I dinna ken, ma'am—I dinna ken. I blaws in wind, an' lats it come out onything it likes."

Jeannie Watson—or, as she was more generally called, "Jeannie Gearie"—lived with her old mother, to whose support she partly contributed from the pickings on her daily stroll, which was arranged to overtake the whole burgh in the course of every week. A garden was attached to their humble abode, which afforded Jeannie a little recreation now and then. She was proud of her garden, and pleased to exhibit it. "What have you here?" she was asked by a visitor. "Taties," she replied; "but they're no' comin' up, though I took great pains wi' them." "What did you do, Jeannie?" "Ow! I gied them a boil afore I planted them."

CHAPTER XLVII.

ANECDOTES.

There are many unprinted anecdotes about Laurencekirk, as about most districts in Scotland. Some of the older residenters, who have recently passed away, had the rare faculty of enlivening conversation with humorous sayings and happy illustrations drawn from their own experience. Mr David Dickson sometimes remarked that he could go up one side of the street and down the other, relating one or more anecdotes in connection with every house that he passed. It is to be regretted that some of the choicest were not committed to writing, in the very words of the narrator. They

are not likely to be ever repeated with such effect; and the point will often be missed, now that the genial voice which defined it is for ever silenced.

Many Englishmen—and what is more inexcusable, some Anglicised Scotchmen — are of opinion that humour is not a characteristic of the Scottish mind. Sydney Smith was fortunate in being the first to hit upon the "surgical" illustration, and apply it to the average Scotchman's capacity for understanding a joke. If a native of North Britain had luckily anticipated the hit, it might now have been found saddled upon the typical Englishman's shoulders. The fact is that, while an Englishman only can duly appreciate the humour of his countrymen, only a Scotchman can thoroughly understand and do justice to Scottish humour. From their respective stand-points they fondly pride themselves, each on his own superiority as a humourist; and he must be a dull third party who fails to enjoy, as the best joke of all, the tone of confidence with which they mutually apply the substance of the witty Sydney's remark.

It is a mistake to suppose that as a rule the uneducated Scotchman is destitute of the humorous faculty. There was a good deal of pawky humour in the old woman's shout to a boy when she saw a dog making off from the hake with the fish on which it had been her purpose to dine. "Haud agen that dog, laddie; he's awa' wi' my leg o' mutton."

A gentleman was on terms with a workman, and asked him if he had a certificate of character. The question seemed to amuse the young man, who at once replied, "Losh keep me, na! naebody would

gie me a character." He was engaged, however, and he faithfully served his employer for more than forty years.

At a meeting of the parochial board, there was an application for relief from an old woman, of whose demise one of the members had a sort of conviction. He insisted "there must be some mistake; the woman is dead." "It may be," was the reply of another member, "but it seems she's denyin't."

A Laurencekirk witness was being examined by a learned counsel, who began in a dignified way, "I think, Sandy, you are married?" "I think so too, Mr Buchanan," was the immediate rejoinder, to the amusement of the court, and the slight embarrassment of the man of law when he found his own words so readily echoed.

There was a species of grim-like humour in the remark of one of Sir Alexander Ramsay's tenants, whose descendants are still numerous in Laurencekirk. He complained of his garden being made a thoroughfare, and referring to the trespassers, asked, "What am I to do wi' them, Sir Alexander?" "Why, Wood, can't you shoot them?" "A' verra weel, Sir Alexander; but what'll I do wi' the deid anes?"

There had been a fire in the village. A neighbour, probably without any good ground, suspected the tenant of fraud, and thought his suspicion justified when he saw certain articles ready for removal, for which he convinced himself that the insurance company had made compensation. He set off with haste to the office of the insurance agent, and burst into his room exclaiming, "If you want to see

Nec tamen consumebatur, ging doon to the railway station."

An instance of practical humour may be narrated. A villager having a message to a neighbouring farmer on entering the farm kitchen found nobody in it. Some rolls of butter were on the dresser, to one of which he helped himself, wrapping it in his handkerchief, and putting both into his hat. He had barely time to cover his head, when the farmer, who had seen the manœuvre from the opposite end of a passage, appeared and asked if he wanted to see him. "Come ben to the parlour, and tell me what it is." He complied, and was invited to a seat near the fire. The farmer remonstrated—

"Do you keep your hat on in the room?"

"I houp, sir, you'll excuse me; I've a terrible cauld."

"I'm sorry at that, but we'll put on a good fire." He added a log of wood to the blazing coal, and soon remarked—

"Man, you're switin' awfu'; but it'll do you guid, if you tak' care o' cauld aifter."

By-and-by liquid drops came trickling down both cheeks, which he vainly strove to wipe with the sleeve of his coat.

"Hae you no' your naipkin?" was the next question.

He felt every pocket. "Na, I've forgotten't."

"Maybe it's in your hat?" suggested the tormentor.

"Na, it canna' be there," quickly replied the victim; but he did not look to see.

The farmer put on another log, and proceeded to

stir the fire. The succession of drops on the face became a continuous stream, which ended in a pat-pat upon the floor.

"Oh, that *is* dreedfu'! I canna stand it mair!" and he started to his feet.

Two greasy lines indicated his track from the parlour fireside to the kitchen-door. It is not recorded how much of the butter appeared on his breakfast-table next morning.

The old toll-house which stood at the east end of the village was the scene of the following incident:—

James Smart was much pressed by a needy neighbour to sign a bill as security for him. James was fond of good company and a dram, and the neighbour "stood treat" for the occasion. When he thought his friend sufficiently primed, he produced the bill, which, to appearance, was duly signed. The business over, and the bill away in the pocket of its owner, he was asked by a boon companion why he could be so foolish as become security for so worthless a character, and he naively replied, "He'll no' be muckle the better o' yon; for I wrote 'James' upon the bill and 'Smart' upon the table."

The people of Laurencekirk have never been prone to superstition. Their tone of mind is too much matter-of-fact for that. The few traditionary webs in which a thread of superstition is woven are found, on slight inspection, to be largely composed of what is due to very natural causes. Witness the following two, which are all that can be recalled:—

A flock of sheep was grazing in the neighbour-

hood. The shepherd put up at an inn in the village. His sleeping-apartment was an upper room in an outbuilding. There was a cradle in the room, in which the sheep-dog reposed. The floor must have been well ventilated, for two mischievous servant-girls contrived to pass a rope through an aperture, the end of which they tied to the foot of the cradle. The shepherd was asleep, when the cradle began to rock, and the dog to howl. "Be quiet, you beast!" commanded the shepherd, when roused by the noise. The dog obeyed, and his master was again in the arms of Morpheus. By-and-by the cradle began to be in motion, and a louder and long-protracted howl awakened the astonished man. A voice of sympathy came up from below. "Fat's the maitter, Mr Whyte? Is't the dog?" "Na, lassie,—I dinna think it's the dog; it's the deevil!"

A tradesman in the village, whose temper was never very mild, was always hot and furious when, as often happened, he was in his cups. On such occasions his home-coming usually cleared the house. On a certain evening his wife and daughter, a girl about ten years of age, were awaiting his return. The first indication of it made it apparent that they must take themselves off. The wife retired from the house, and the daughter made her escape to the top of a box-bed, from which, invisible herself, she could look down upon her inebriated parent. He sat in front of the fire uttering words of menace to all and sundry, vowing this, protesting against that, and altogether conducting himself in a violent manner, when from above, in a hollow voice, but with terrible emphasis, came the three words, "Tak' him, deevil!"

The effect was instantaneous, and it was wonderful. He rushed in terror from the house; and when he returned, it was with lamb-like demeanour, which did not leave him for the next month—the most peaceful which his wife and family had experienced for many years.

An elderly lady in the village, whose dialect was the purest Aberdonian, was condoling with a young Englishman on the marriage of a sweetheart. Referring to another blooming girl in whom she believed the young man to be interested, she sought to comfort him with the assurance, "Never 'ee mind; Miss —— is aye te' fore" (*i.e.*, still survives). He exclaimed in amazement, "Eighty-four! eighty-four! Why, she can't be more than twenty-four!"

A toper, whose social hours sometimes encroached upon the morning, had returned home from a festive gathering, to find his wife about her household duties. He had little more than got into bed when the rays of the morning sun found their way into the room. Mistaking the source of the glare of light, he peevishly remonstrated, "Canna' you blaw out that cruizie, woman?"

Medicinally applied, the strictest teetotaller can hardly object to a moderate use of ardent spirits. But few have so much faith in their efficacy in any form as a worthy old lady—a native, and nearly a lifelong residenter in the parish—expressed in one of their modes of application. The serious illness of a young lad in whom she was interested was announced to her. She was anxious to know what had been done on his behalf. "Have you tried him with

toddy?" "Ow ay." "Was he nae better?" "Na." "Ow! than, I doubt there's nae remeid."

A parishioner had a supply of hay, of which he was disposing in small quantities. He suspected, however, that the hay was disappearing faster than the sale accounted for. He secreted himself one night near the stack, and kept watch. About midnight a man appeared, and deliberately abstracted a quantity, which he made up in a bundle. When about to carry it off, the owner appeared, inflicted a blow which brought him to the ground, and stooping over his prostrate body, remarked, "I dinna think I sell'd you ony hay, Johnnie."

Few parishes of its size have contributed so largely as Laurencekirk has done to the number of Scotchmen who have gone to push their fortune in a foreign land. John Spark was for some years in the East India Company's service. On their passage out, the servants of the Company were allowed a certain space for the storage of merchandise to be disposed of on their arrival. Of all things in the world, Mr Spark made selection of a barrel of wigs to fill the space devoted to him. Whether from the inherent moisture of the article, or from leakage in the barrel, the wigs got wet in the passage. In due course, after arrival of the ship, the goods of this class aboard were offered for public sale at the hands of a native. When the turn of the barrel came, that gentleman took hold of the wig lying on the top, and the whole contents of the barrel came out like a rope, while the auctioneer described the lot as "*Johnnie Palkie Veeg!*" One or two may have been in a better state of preservation than the rest, for the sale did

realise something, though Mr Spark confessed that he got fewer shillings than they had cost him pounds.

An anecdote is told of the home-coming of another young man, who had sojourned in America for a time. He arrived at midnight by the "Union" coach, which stopped at his father's door in the village. He alighted, and knocked to rouse the inmates of the house. The father called out to another of his sons, who was not gifted with a strong intellect, "Rise, Willie, and see fa's at the door." "Na, father, I'm feared." "Hoots, min, get up!" and Willie got up, but, with proper precaution, asked, "Fa's that knockin' at oor door at this time o' nicht?" A voice came from the outside, "It's your brother Dauvid, come frae America." Thus satisfied, Willie communicated the intelligence—"Father, its American Doit; you can rise an' open the door yoursel'!" The old man did not need a second invitation. He hastily attired himself, and was soon in the arms of the new arrival, fondly exclaiming, "My son Dauvid —Dauvid, my son—hae you come a' the way frae America on the tap o' the coach? an' hae you got ony meat sin' you cam' awa?" The remaining passengers looked down with interest upon the interview, not knowing whether to admire most the old man's peculiar notions of geography, or his wonderful estimate of the endurance of the young man's appetite.

The daughter of a village Mrs Partington had made an eligible match, which was announced by the worthy matron in these words: "She's got a braw-peeled egg. She's to mairy a chepherd [shepherd]—no' a common chepherd, but the chepherd o'er

a' the chepherds—the chepherd o' the Char. Three miles frae neighbours, an' nine miles frae the kirk. Never gangs but on a lang summer's day. Cheese an' bread o'er his shouther, an' a double-barrelled gun in his pouch."

About the middle of last century, a general order had been given for all owners of lands in the district to deliver a specified quantity of straw on board of a ship at Johnshaven, for the use of the king's horses. The tenant of a small farm in the parish, not distinguished for his activity, was on the way with his requisite portion, when he was met by some of his neighbours returning with their empty carts. He was greeted with the intelligence : "You needna ging farrer, Wastie—the ship's loaded an' awa." "Weel, weel," was the satisfied reply ; "naething's lost by laziness."

A menagerie was in the village, and a dromedary was marched through the streets as an attraction to the public. It was viewed with astonishment by one villager at least, who rushed into the house exclaiming to his sister, "Losh, Lizzie ! come out an' see aither the Gannachy brig comin' up the toon, or a forge o' the bruit creation !"

It was proposed to have a burying-ground in connection with the Episcopal Chapel. A member of the congregation was appointed to make inquiry of the villagers in the neighbourhood whether objections were likely to be raised. He asked a woman who occupied an adjoining house, "Would you have any objections to the Episcopalians being buried in the ground around the chapel ?" and received for answer, "Na, 'deed no ; I wad hae nae objections that they were a' buried there the morn."

On a certain Monday, the bell having begun to announce a week-day service, a woman in the village remarked to a neighbour, "Fat's ado wi' the chapel folk the day?" and received the reply, "I dinna ken; some o' their Ash Wednesdays, I suppose."

The Synod of Angus and Mearns met at Laurence-kirk. At a previous meeting in the same place many years before, a case of deposition was before the court, and the fact had been remembered to the discredit of the Kirk. A parishioner was on his way from the meeting when he was addressed by a neighbour belonging to the Free Church: "Weel, John, ony black sheep to get quit o' the day?" "Na, na, Miss Jean," was the prompt reply; "ye ken we got quit o' them a'thegither in '43."

There was a meeting in the town-hall, for the institution of a colporteur's mission in the district, presided over by the Baronet of Fettercairn. The deliberations were going on with becoming gravity, when the door of the hall was opened, and a well-known villager appeared. Walking along the passage, up to the table on the platform, he stood before the astonished chairman, took a half-crown from his pocket, and putting it down, remarked with some emphasis, "Hae, Sir John, that'll help to spread your seditious pamphlets."

THE END.

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